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MVA seeks new tourism partnerships at ITB Asia. PAGE 5

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Dozens of people line up at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center to take advantage of early voting yesterday. Several vehicles are also seen with their occupants electing for drive-through and curbside voting accommodations provided by CEC.

CEC: Low early voting turnout

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission wrapped up early voting yesterday afternoon and according to CEC executive director Kayla Igitol, early voting yielded lower numbers than expected.

Yesterday marked the final day of early voting and today marks official general

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Muña thanks Kingman for legal support

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
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CORRESPONDENT

The former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. grant writer Candice Muña expressed her gratitude to lawyer Jim

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RACQUEL H. FLOYD
Candice Muña ended her discussion with a song that highlighted the bravery and resilience of the people of the CNMI and their commitment to justice and transparency during the Marianas Business Network town hall meeting last Wednesday night at the Last Shot Bar.

Coral Ocean Resort's new lease OK'd

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Senate Standing Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs and Gaming and the House Standing Committee on Natural Resources held a joint committee meeting yesterday to discuss Suwaso Corp. dba Coral Ocean Resort's proposed lease.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Senate Standing Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs and Gaming and the House Standing

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Jury finds 2 of 3 accused of helping illegally transport others to Guam, guilty

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

A group of U.S. District Court for the NMI jurors found two of three Chinese nationals

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The Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies is pleased to announce that Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, treasurer and Investment Committee chairperson of the Government of Guam Retirement Fund, has joined the APAFS board of governors.
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WORLD
The Israeli military said Sunday it has carried out a ground raid into Syria, seizing a Syrian citizen involved in Iranian networks. It was the first time in the current war that Israel announced its troops operated in Syrian territory.
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LIFE & STYLE
Kamala Harris made a surprise appearance on "Saturday Night Live" in the final days before the presidential election, playing herself as the mirror-image double of Maya Rudolph's version of her in the show's cold open.
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Local

Piteg: I'm running because I want to see change

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Considered one of the underdogs in this year's general elections, Precinct 1 representative candidate Ben Piteg expresses that he wants to see changes in the CNMI and hopes he is given the chance to do so follow this year's elections.

In a statement from Piteg, a CNMI public servant for over two decades, he said he decided to run as Precinct 1 Representatives because like many other CNMI residents, he knows what it feels to suffer.

"Are we satisfied with our current situation? With the austerity measures, and the cost of food in the market, do we have assurances about the retirement pension? Are we OK with our [Commonwealth Utilities Corp.] billings? What are our lawmaker doing to help us? I'm also one of the ordinary citizens who are suffering so that is why I decided to run. I want to help people and myself too with the problems we are facing," he said.

Piteg encourages Precinct 1 voters to support him and the Republican Party for change.

"If you're not satisfied with what we're going through, then please support the Republican Party. I'm seriously running for the people. I know what it feels like to be in this current situation," he said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Precinct 1 representative candidate Ben Piteg.

When asked what his first course of action would be, Piteg said he will push for the reinstatement of Annex 6.

"I only have two years to run but the first thing I will do is fight for the Annex 6. We need tourists to come in and spend their money here. The second thing I'm going to do is improve our sites so we can convince tourists to come back and visit. Our hotels are closing down, *Saipan Tribune* is closing down, are we going to continue with this trend or do we want to do something about it? I want to run because I want to do something," he said.

"I have been a government servant for many years, I have been with Customs for over 20 years, so I know how it works and I see how people come in and I know how much taxes are collected and how much goes to the general fund. Waive CUC, why not help the people and waive a portion of their bill? Everything is for the government but what about the people? It's very sad because they raised taxes and then burden the public," Piteg added.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Supreme Court releases closure dates in Nov.

On Nov. 1, 2024, the Supreme Court outlined the Judiciary's closure date during the month of November 2024

■ Nov. 5, 2024 (Tuesday) Election Day

■ Nov. 11, 2024 (Monday) Veterans Day

■ Nov. 25, 2024 (Monday) Annual Judiciary Professional Development Conference

■ Nov. 26, 2024 (Tuesday) Annual Judiciary Professional Development Conference

■ Nov. 28, 2024 (Thursday) Thanksgiving Day

E-filing portals (File and ServeXpress and eRecording) will remain open during the holidays. Bail, family protection, emergency, and time-sensitive matters may be set consistent with applicable rules. Judiciary personnel may be activated for emergency and essential services.

Visit the Judiciary's website at www.NMIJudiciary.gov for court information. For additional information or inquiries, contact:

■ Judy T. Aldan, Esq.
(670) 236-9718
(670) 788-4363
judy.aldan@nmijudiciary.gov

■ Patrick V. Diaz
(670) 235-4258 or 236-9703
(670) 783-8417
patrick.diaz@nmijudiciary.gov ***(PR)***

CHCC: Change Healthcare Inc. is not CHCC

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. would like to inform the general public that Change Healthcare Inc. and CHCC are distinct entities and are not affiliated with one another.

Recently, individuals within the CNMI community have received a Notice of Breach from Change Healthcare Inc. CHCC wants to clarify that CHC and CHCC are different organizations with somewhat similar acronyms.

Change Healthcare Inc. is a U.S.-based company specializing in revenue and payment cycle management services, which connects payers, providers, and patients within the U.S. healthcare system.

This Notice of Breach from CHC does not pertain to CHCC or any services provided by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. here in the CNMI.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Notice of Breach you received from Change Healthcare Inc., please reach out to them directly as CHCC is unable to provide assistance on this matter. ***(PR)***

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Saipan Tribune was among the most frequently used and trusted local news sources among CNMI residents surveyed
02
72%
of CNMI residents surveyed perceived the Saipan Tribune to be "trustworthy" or "very trustworthy"
03
66%
of CNMI residents surveyed reported using Saipan Tribune "often" or "all the time" as a local news source
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*SOURCE:
i Minagahet - Ellet: Reporting the Truth in the Northern Mariana Islands by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council
A study regarding news media use and perceptions, news media literacy, civic engagement, and community values in the Northern Islands
https://www.nmhcouncil.org/mediasurvey2022/
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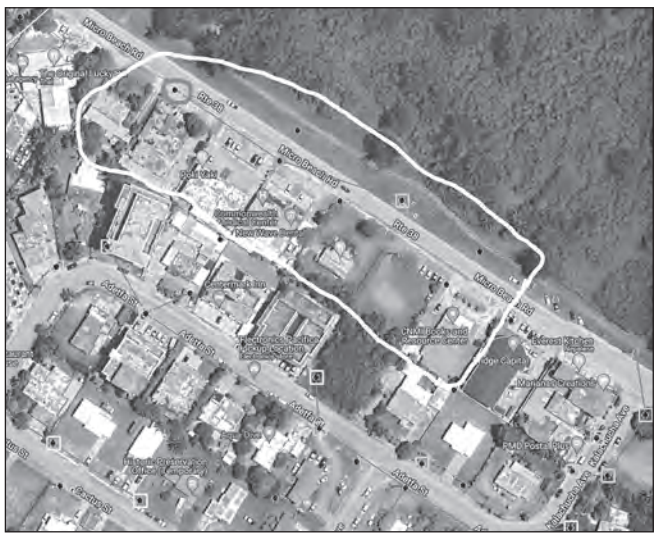
CUC sets scheduled power service interruptions from Nov. 6-13



CUC

The map of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s scheduled power service interruptions on Nov. 6, 2024.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be scheduled power service interruptions from Nov. 6 to 13, 2024. See additional information below:

Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2024

■ Power Service Interruption Time: 8:30am-11:30am

■ Area(s) Affected: Garapan (partials of Micro Beach Rd)

■ Water Well(s) Affected: None

■ Wastewater Facilities Affected: None

■ Traffic Light(s) Affected: None

■ Purpose: To allow CUC linemen to install a 40-foot wooden power pole.

Thursday, Nov. 7, 2024

■ Power Service Interruption Time: 8:30am-2:30pm

■ Area(s) Affected: Chalan Kiya

■ Water Well(s) Affected: None

■ Wastewater Facilities Affected: None

■ Traffic Light(s) Affected: None

■ Purpose: To allow CUC linemen to straighten a leaning power pole, replace a 45-foot wooden power pole with a 45-foot concrete pole, and connect 3-phase overhead, primary conductors.

Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024

■ Power Service Interruption Time: 8:30am-1:30pm

■ Area(s) Affected: Lower Base

■ Water Well(s) Affected: Puerto Rico and Upper Navy Hill (water services to Chinatown, Upper Navy Hill, As Falape, Upper Miha Housing, and Chalan Galaide may be affected based on tank level)

■ Wastewater Facilities Affected: None

■ Traffic Light(s) Affected: None

Momentary Power Service Interruption Times: 8:30am-9am and 1pm-1:30pm

■ Area(s) Affected: Sadog Tasi, Capitol Hill, Wireless, and Mt. Tapochao

■ Water Well(s) Affected: Sadog Tasi and Capitol Hill

■ Wastewater Facilities Affected: None

■ Traffic Light(s) Affected: Sadog Tasi near Mobil

■ Purpose: To allow CUC linemen to replace a 45-foot wooden power pole with a 45-foot concrete pole, and to replace an airbrake switch.

Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024

■ Power Service Interruption Time: 8:30am-11:30am

■ Area(s) Affected: Afetnas (partials of Afetnas Rd.)

■ Water Well(s) Affected: None

■ Wastewater Facilities Affected: None

■ Traffic Light(s) Affected: None

■ Purpose: To allow CUC linemen to replace a 40-foot concrete pole with a 35-foot concrete pole.

Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024

■ Power Service Interruption Time: 10:30am-1:30pm

■ Area(s) Affected: Koblerville (Ahu Dr.)

■ Water Well(s) Affected: None

■ Wastewater Facilities Affected: None

■ Traffic Light(s) Affected: None

■ Purpose: To allow CUC linemen to replace a 45-foot concrete pole with a 40-foot concrete pole.

Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024

■ Power Service Interruption Time: 8:30am-12:30pm

■ Area(s) Affected: Beach Road

■ Water Well(s) Affected: None

■ Wastewater Facilities Affected: S-10

■ Traffic Light(s) Affected: None

■ Purpose: To allow CUC linemen to replace a 45-foot wooden power pole with a 45-foot concrete pole.

Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024

■ Power Service Interruption Time: 10:30am-1:30pm

■ Area(s) Affected: Chalan Laulau

■ Water Well(s) Affected: None

■ Wastewater Facilities Affected: S-11 and S-12

■ Traffic Light(s) Affected: Quarter Master Rd.

Momentary Power Service Interruption Times: 10:30am-11am and 1:30pm-2:00pm

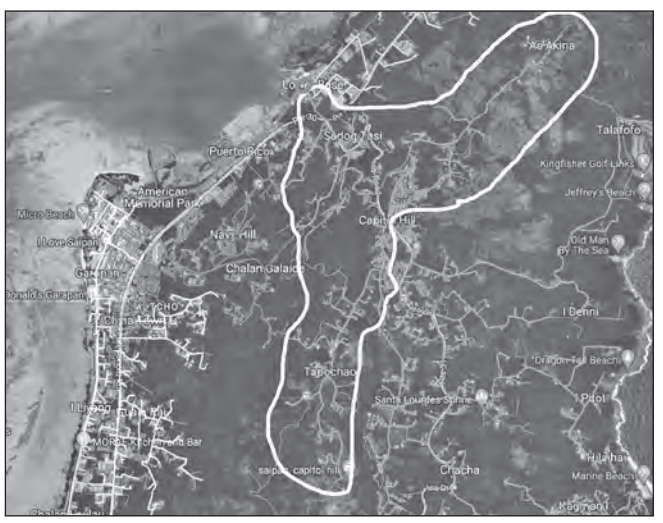
■ Area(s) Affected: Beach Road

■ Water Well(s) Affected: None

■ Wastewater Facilities Affected: S-11 and S-12

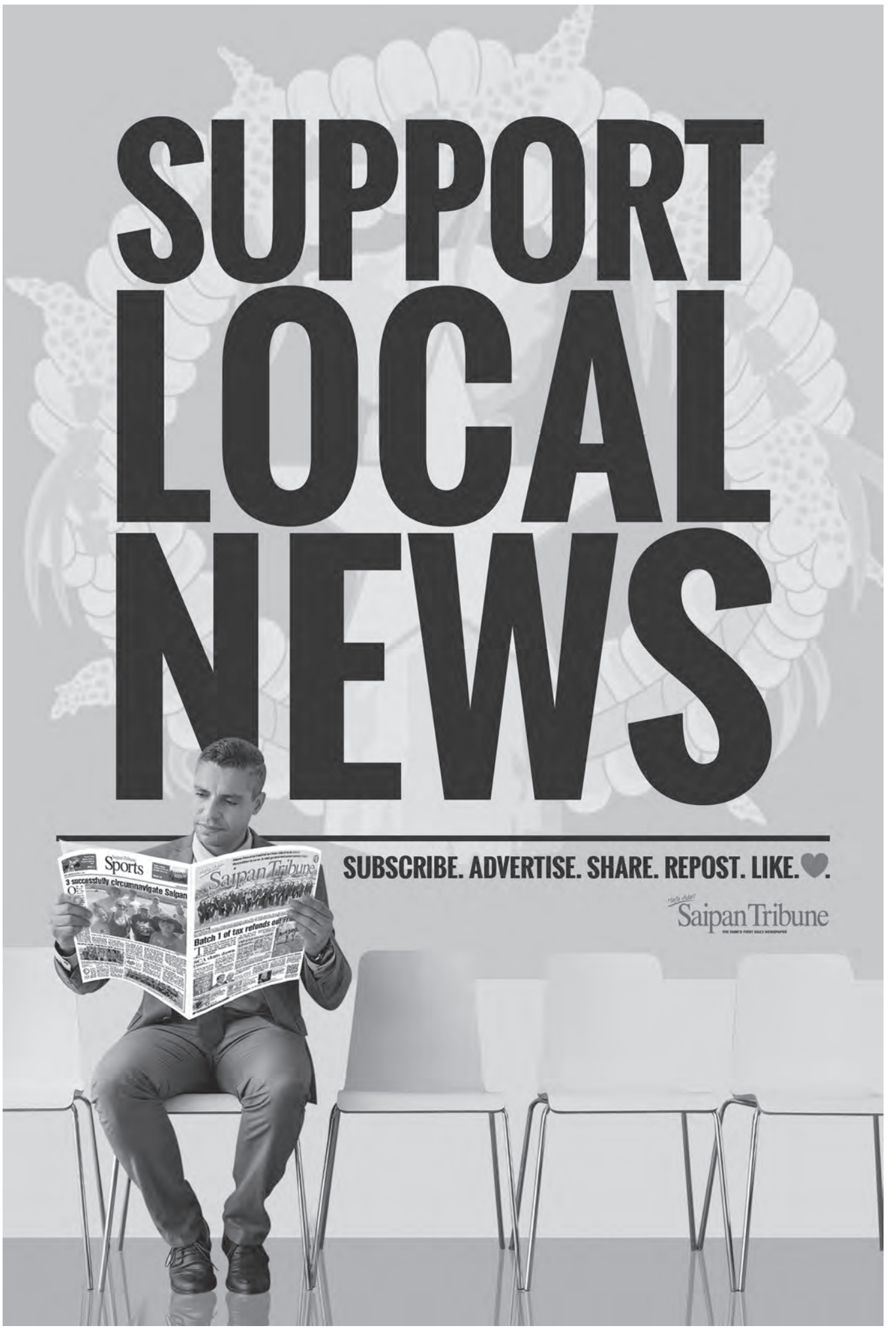
■ Purpose: To allow CUC linemen to replace a 40-foot wooden power pole with a 40-foot concrete pole and a 35-foot wooden power pole with a 35-foot concrete pole.

CUC appreciates the public's cooperation and understanding as it works to ensure reliable service for its customers. For more information, please contact CUC's hotline at (670) 236-4333, visit its website, and monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. For emergencies, contact Customer Service at (670) 664-4282. ***(PR)***



CUC

The map of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s scheduled power service interruptions on Nov. 9, 2024.



JOINT

From page 1

Committee on Natural Resources held a joint committee meeting yesterday morning where they approved the new lease for Suwaso Corp. dba Coral Ocean Resort.

During a joint committee meeting yesterday, without much discussion, all members of the Senate standing committee on REDP and the House standing committee on Natural Resources voted in favor of passing Suwaso Corp. dba Coral Ocean Resort's lease.

According to REDP chair Sen. Corina Magofna (Ind-Saipan), before the joint committee meeting, both the Senate and House joint committee had already reached a consensus to approve the lease.

"We received the proposed lease earlier this year, back in March. Both committees have conducted public hearings to address any issues or concerns from the public regarding the proposed lease. We've also had unofficial committee meetings to discuss the lease agreement in more detail. Now, we have arrived at a final decision. Both the Senate and House committee members have come to a consensus and have agreed to move forward with the approval of the lease for Suwasoo," she said.

Rep. John Paul Sablan (Ind-Saipan) made the motion to formulate a committee report recommending that the full body of the Senate and House approve COR's lease.

"We conducted many meetings and that is to include both parties, Department of Public Lands and Suwasoo for the past month. I move to formulate a committee report recommending to the full body of the house and senate to approve the lease between DPL and Suwasoo dba Coral Ocean Resort," he said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Suwaso was initially granted a 25-year land lease last Feb. 10, 1986, with an option to extend it for 15 years, for a total of 40 years. After the initial lease expired in 2011, the company opted to avail of its 15-year extension. It is currently on its 38th year. The 15-year extension will expire in 2026.

Back in March, Suwaso proposed a new lease to allow COR to remain in operation for another 40 years.

Under the proposed new lease, Suwaso will pay an annual rate of 0.6% of the fair market value for the first 10 years and that will increase to 1.125% for the remaining term of the lease.

In addition, the lessee will pay a percentage of its business gross receipts and contribute over $1.8 million in public benefits. The public benefits include $600,000 for environmental improvements; $300,000 for beautification projects; $5,000 in annual student education assistance; $10,000 in annual promotion of local cultures; and $300,000 for playground equipment.

Under the environmental improvement projects, Suwaso will install streetlights and a new asphalt road for Agingan Beach, As Gonno Road, and Isley Field.

The company will also continue maintaining the Agingan Beach pavilions and restroom.

Suwaso also promises to provide financial assistance for eligible Northern Marianas Descent students.

The company also pledges to give $5,000 each year to the Indigenous Affairs Office and Carolinian Affairs Office to support activities to promote the Chamorro and Carolinian cultures, language, and arts.

Suwaso also pledges to buy, install, and maintain a new children's park.

A total of $25 million will be invested by Suwaso for renovations of existing structures and new improvements on the Coral Ocean Resort premises. Santos said Suwaso plans to further repair and renovate existing buildings damaged by past super typhoons. She said new improvements include the construction of 200 rooms and villas, a Spanish garden, a golf starter building, beach club, new restaurant, and an upgraded swimming pool.

TRUNK OR TREAT RACQUEL FLOYD

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library parking lot was packed with community members as early as 3:30pm last Thursday for the library's Trunk or Treat Halloween event. Thousands of kids and kids of heart wore their best Halloween costumes to celebrate Hallow's Eve that is believed to have its roots on pagan tradition.

MUÑA

From page 1

Bob Kingman for his guidance and support as a whistleblower during the Marianas Business Network town hall meeting last Wednesday evening at the Last Shot Bar.

Muña highlighted the importance of legal support in addressing corruption and emphasized the need for the rule of law and due process within CUC.

"He has been a great help for me as a whistleblower. I did not know anything about it. All I know is what was said. All I knew is I'm protected. But he reached out to me in my time of need and he helped me. He helped guide me to where I needed to go. And I'm so very thankful for him for being in our islands and not giving up in the CNMI."

Muña even likened the assistant attorney general to a beacon of hope in the rule of law.

"The rule of law was an Enlightenment concept. It was a concept that originated after the Dark Ages, when people were living in oppression from these dictators. And the rule of law came about because people believe that, okay, there's the law that's above the rule of kings. Kings are dictators. You know what? Your life can be crappy, or it can be great under a king, but most of the time it was crappy. And our nation, the United States of America, was built upon the rule of law. That's exactly how it should be operated, as well as due process, and one thing that opened up my eyes about it is that in CUC there's no rule of law, and there's no due process because there they believe they're above the law. It's jungle rules and there's also no due process. If they don't like you, you're out," said Muña.

Kingman, who arrived on Saipan in March of 2023, introduced himself as the managing prosecutor of the Public Integrity Task Force and he said that it's an honor and privilege to have that role for 18 months.

According to Kingman, his role involves educating and encouraging people about public integrity.

"One of the marching orders for that task force is to educate and encourage what corruption is looks like what the steps are as it relates to government transparency, as it relates to speaking out, what your role is, what your rights are," he said.

Kingman discussed government transparency, focusing on individual rights and responsibilities. He emphasized the importance of understanding roles and rights, but refrained from discussing specific cases due to potential litigation.

Kingman encourages the community to speak up and report any issues, emphasizing the importance of collective action in addressing corruption.

Meanwhile, Muña criticized CUC for not considering all options for treating the contaminated water and for blocking qualified professionals from being hired as she discussed the contamination of the southern aquifer due to firefighting foam and the need for desalination as a potential solution.

Muña mentioned the high levels of PFAS in the groundwater and the need for a comprehensive solution to address the contamination.

She concluded her discussion by thanking the attendees and reiterating the importance of community involvement and action, calling for continued support and advocacy to address the issues discussed particularly in relation to CUC and water contamination.

The whistleblower then broke out in a song that told about the bravery and resilience of the people of the CNMI and their commitment to justice and transparency.

CEC

From page 1

elections day.

During the final hour for early voting, dozens of people lined up at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center to take advantage of early voting.

Meanwhile, vehicles stretched for miles as they availed of the drive-through and curbside voting accommodations provided by CEC.

However, in an interview with Igitol, the number of voters who came out for the early voting period did not meet their expectations.

"It wasn't as high as expected but as I explained before, it's the midterm elections. But we had over 5,000 come out so far," she said.

Specifically, the over 5,000 early voters counted includes early voters from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

When asked what the expectation was, Igitol said at least 8,000.

"We were expecting at least 8,000 early voters, but we still have election day from 7am to 7pm. This including early voter from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota," she said.

However, Igitol said the number will go up following election day.

As for preparations for today's election, Igitol said everything is set to go.

"If you are not sure what precinct you're a registered voter for, just visit our website to see our polling places or call our office at (670) 235-8683. Come out and exercise your right to vote. It's your civic duty. Today is your last day to vote," she said.

The polling places are as follows:

- Election District Precinct 1A (San Antonio Area)
- Hopwood Junior High School Cafeteria (Football field entrance)
- Precinct 1B-1 (San Vicente/Dandan Area)
- 1B-2 (San Vicente/Dandan Area)
- Dandan Middle School Cafeteria (Dandan baseball/softball field entrance)
- Precinct 1C (Koblerville Area)
- Koblerville Elementary School (Cafeteria)
- Precinct 2 (Chalan Kanoa/Susupe Area)
- Joeten/Kiyu Public Library (Front entrance)
- Precinct 3A (San Jose/Oleai)
- Oleai Elementary School Cafeteria (Front entrance)
- Precinct 3B-1 (Garapan Area)
- 3B-2 (Garapan Area)
- Garapan Elementary School Cafeteria (Northern entrance)
- Precinct 4A (Tanapag Area)
- Tanapag Youth Center (Main entrance) Precinct 4B (San Roque/As Matius Area)
- Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School Cafeteria (Main)
- Precinct 4C (Capitol Hill Area)
- Jesus P. Manas Legislative Building (House Chamber)
- Precinct 4D (Northern Islands)
- Alamagan, Pagan and Agrigan
- Precinct 5-1 (Kagman Area)
- 5-2 (Kagman Area)
- Chacha Oceanview Middle School (Cafeteria)
- Precinct 6 (Tinian & Aguiguan)
- Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria
- Precinct 7 (Rota)
- Rota-Northern Marianas College Room B-2 (Main entrance)

All polling places for the general election will open at 7am and close at 7pm today, Nov. 5.

As mandated by 1 CMC ¬ß6218 (a), voters must ensure that they bring with them a pictured ID as they will be required to present it in order to be issued a ballot at the polls.

For more information, contact the Commonwealth Election Commission at 235-8683 (VOTE).

JURY

From page 1

accused of helping illegally transport others to Guam by boat guilty following a verdict reading last Friday.

Last Friday, federal court jurors deemed Yang Hongjiang and Weng Meifang guilty of transporting illegal aliens by boat to Guam but found co-defendant Huang Xiulan not guilty.

Originally, the three defendants were each charged with conspiracy and aiding and abetting transportation of illegal aliens.

Each defendant was also charged with conspiracy to defraud the United States.

Following the reading of the verdict, District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona scheduled Yang and Weng's sentencing for March 14, 2025, at 9am.

Meanwhile, Manglona discharged Huang from the proceedings and ordered that her travel documents be returned to her.

Yang and Weng were allowed to remain released on their own recognizance pending sentencing as long as they abide by the previous imposed terms and conditions of their release.

Assistant U.S. attorneys Eric O'Malley and Garth Backe appeared for the federal government while defense attorneys Richard Miller, Cong Nie, and Mark Hanson represented Yang, Weng, and Huang, respectively.

According to the indictment, in or about late June or early July 2023, Yang, Weng, and Huang and others created, joined, and abetted a scheme to transport eight aliens (including themselves) from the District of the Northern Mariana Islands to the Territory of Guam.

The indictment alleges that the scheme was carried out with the intent that the aliens would reside in Guam, knowing and in reckless disregard of the fact that seven of the aliens were illegally present in the United States, including in the District of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the eighth alien had no authority to enter or reside in Guam or any part of the United States other than the District of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Camacho invites Palauan community to collaborate on community programs

Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" B. Camacho held a meeting with members of the local Palauan community. Amongst the items discussed were how the Palauan community could work together with Camacho under the various community programs and projects of the Saipan Mayor's Office.

One of the most important among these projects is the Adopt-A-Place Program which Camacho highly encouraged the Palauan community to be a part of. He encouraged them to start looking for areas around the island that need looking after and to see if they would be able to take those areas under their care.

Another community program mentioned was the upcoming Neighborhood Watch. With a recent spike in criminal activities, the mayor is pushing towards the revitalization of the Neighborhood Watch as a way for the community to come together as one and combat this unacceptable behavior.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" B. Camacho poses with members of local Palauan community during a recent general meeting at the Saipan Mayor's Office.

In addition to these programs, they discussed the "Naftan Project" or the planned revitalization of the Naftan area. The Palauan community over the past couple of years had been meeting with the other government regulatory agencies regarding this matter and worked with them to get the project started. Camacho also looked into how the Saipan Mayor's Office could assist in the beautification efforts of this area.

The meeting was very productive and Camacho is very much looking forward to working with his Palauan brothers and sisters in the near future.

Camacho would also like to call upon other leaders and members of our island's diverse ethnic groups to meet and join him and his office in these programs for betterment of our community.

For any questions or more information, contact the Saipan Mayor's Office at (670) 234-6208 or our hotline at (670) 234-DUTY. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8am-4pm. The Saipan Mayor's Office is also open through lunch. ***(PR)***

Pacific judges convene in Palau to tackle environmental law challenges

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Recognizing the judiciary's essential role in environmental stewardship, the Pacific Judicial Council convened its Environmental Law & Science Conference in Palau from Oct. 28 to 31. The event brought together legal experts, environmental scientists, and Pacific Island leaders to tackle urgent environmental challenges facing the region and to promote dialogue on sustainability.

"As guardians of justice, we have a solemn duty to uphold laws that safeguard our natural resources, protect vulnerable communities, and support responsible development," said PJC president Chief Justice Robert J. Torres in his opening remarks. "This conference represents our collective commitment to that vision—a commitment to protect our lands and waters for generations to come."

The conference, organized by Justice F. Philip Carbullido, on behalf of the PJC education committee, explored climate science, ocean governance, island sustainability, fisheries, coral reef preservation, and marine pollution. M. Margaret McKeown, Senior Circuit Judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, spoke on recent U.S. Supreme Court environmental rulings, while Michael Mosman, Senior District Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon, provided a primer on environmental science in court litigation. Dr. Bob Richmond from the University of Hawaii at Mānoa led a session on marine pollution laws, and Dr. Nicole Yamase, director of Impact at OneReef Micronesia, discussed the critical role of Indigenous practices in strengthening Pacific Island ecosystems.

PJC

The Environmental Law & Science Conference held in Palau from Oct. 28 to 31 brought together legal experts, environmental scientists, and Pacific Island leaders to tackle urgent environmental challenges facing the region and to promote dialogue on sustainability.

Also in attendance was Guam Lt. Gov. Joshua F. Tenorio who served as the conference's keynote speaker.

The Pacific Judicial Council unites judicial branches across the Pacific to encourage dialogue on matters of common interest, including continuing legal education, preservation of custom and tradition within judicial systems, coordination with law enforcement, public education on substance abuse and domestic relations, and judicial administration.

For more information, contact Jessica Perez-Jackson at jperezjackson@guamcourts.gov. ***(PR)***

MVA seeks new tourism partnerships at ITB Asia

MVA

Marianas Visitors Authority deputy manager director Judy Torres holds B2B meetings at ITB Asia—an annual B2B trade show and convention for the Asia-Pacific travel industry—from Oct. 23 to 25, 2024, in Singapore. The MVA promoted tourism opportunities in The Marianas and met with potential tourism partners at the event.

Alongside other tourism offices from around the world, the Marianas Visitors Authority joined the leading travel trade show in Asia, ITB Asia, from Oct. 23 to 25, 2024, in Singapore.

ITB Asia is an annual B2B trade show and convention for the travel industry designed to be the primary event for the Asia-Pacific travel industry, much like its parent event—ITB Berlin.

With the theme "Making Connections and Grow Businesses, Together," this year's show attracted more than 18,500 attendees from 85 countries, including 1,950 exhibitors and 400 high-quality buyers representing destinations, airlines and airports, hotels and resorts, theme parks and attractions, inbound tour operators, cruise lines, spas, venues, other meeting facilities, travel technology companies, and more from across the world. The MVA had 57 pre-set and walk-in meetings with companies from Southeast Asia and other regions, including Japan, Hong Kong, China, Singapore, New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Philippines, Spain, Vietnam, Romania, Thailand, and Israel.

"Every year ITB Asia attracts travel trade companies from around the region and the world to Singapore, creating an opportunity for the MVA to pitch our destination to many new potential tourism partners, as well as reinforce our existing partnerships. Now that we've introduced our product to them, we hope they will take steps to further explore investing in our destination," said MVA deputy managing director Judy C. Torres. "It was also an opportunity to learn about cutting-edge technology in promoting and selling travel destinations."

At the Marianas promotional booth, the MVA also shared general information about the Marianas and its tourist attractions with show attendees.

Over 160 leading industry figures shared industry content delivered through 100 sessions, focusing on the future of MICE, corporate travel, leisure travel, and travel technology. ITB Asia is co-located with MICE Show Asia and Travel Tech Asia covering the key aspects of the travel industry such as Leisure, MICE, Corporate, and Travel Technology. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Biden is back with another loan forgiveness plan

For the umpteenth time, the Biden administration has brazenly conjured up another plan to circumvent the Supreme Court and unilaterally forgive millions in student loan debt. Imagine the hew and cry if Donald Trump had shown such indifference to the rule of law when he sat in the Oval Office.

The latest version of President Joe Biden's great student loan giveaway, courtesy the American taxpayer, bestows the Education Department with the power to forgive outstanding obligations when "a hardship is likely to impair the borrower's ability to fully repay the loan or render the costs of continued collection of the loan unjustified."

Department officials told The New York Times that this "could include things like surprise medical bills, burdensome child care or elder care costs and financial losses from a natural disaster." No word on the cost of the plan—which would be in the hundreds of millions, at a minimum—but taxpayers can be certain that the government will operate under a liberal definition of hardship. The Times reports that the process could include a "holistic assessment" of an applicant's finances, whatever that means.

Republicans will certainly challenge the new rule—and, if history is any indication, they are likely to prevail. Last year, the Supreme Court tossed out White House efforts to wipe away billions in student debt, ruling that the executive branch doesn't have the authority to write law. "The question here," Chief Justice John Roberts wrote for the 6-3 majority, "is not whether something should be done; it is who has the authority to do it."

Since then, two federal courts have blocked subsequent administration efforts to bend federal statutes in service to loan amnesty. In August, an appeals court panel ruled that Biden overstepped his authority with a proposed regulation that lowered payment caps. Last month, a federal court killed a separate plan that canceled accrued interest for 25 million borrowers.

As The Wall Street Journal put it, "Courts are playing whack-a-mole with the administration's debt write-offs that end-run Congress, which never authorized such broad-based debt forgiveness."

All this is particularly ironic given progressive hysteria over a potential second Trump term and concerns that he'll ignore constitutional guardrails. Meanwhile, as the White House is intent on disregarding the nation's highest court, Senate Democrats make plans for ending the filibuster, packing the Supreme Court and knee-capping the justices by making it more difficult for them to check congressional indifference to the Constitution.

What's a bigger threat to democracy and the nation's institutions than that?

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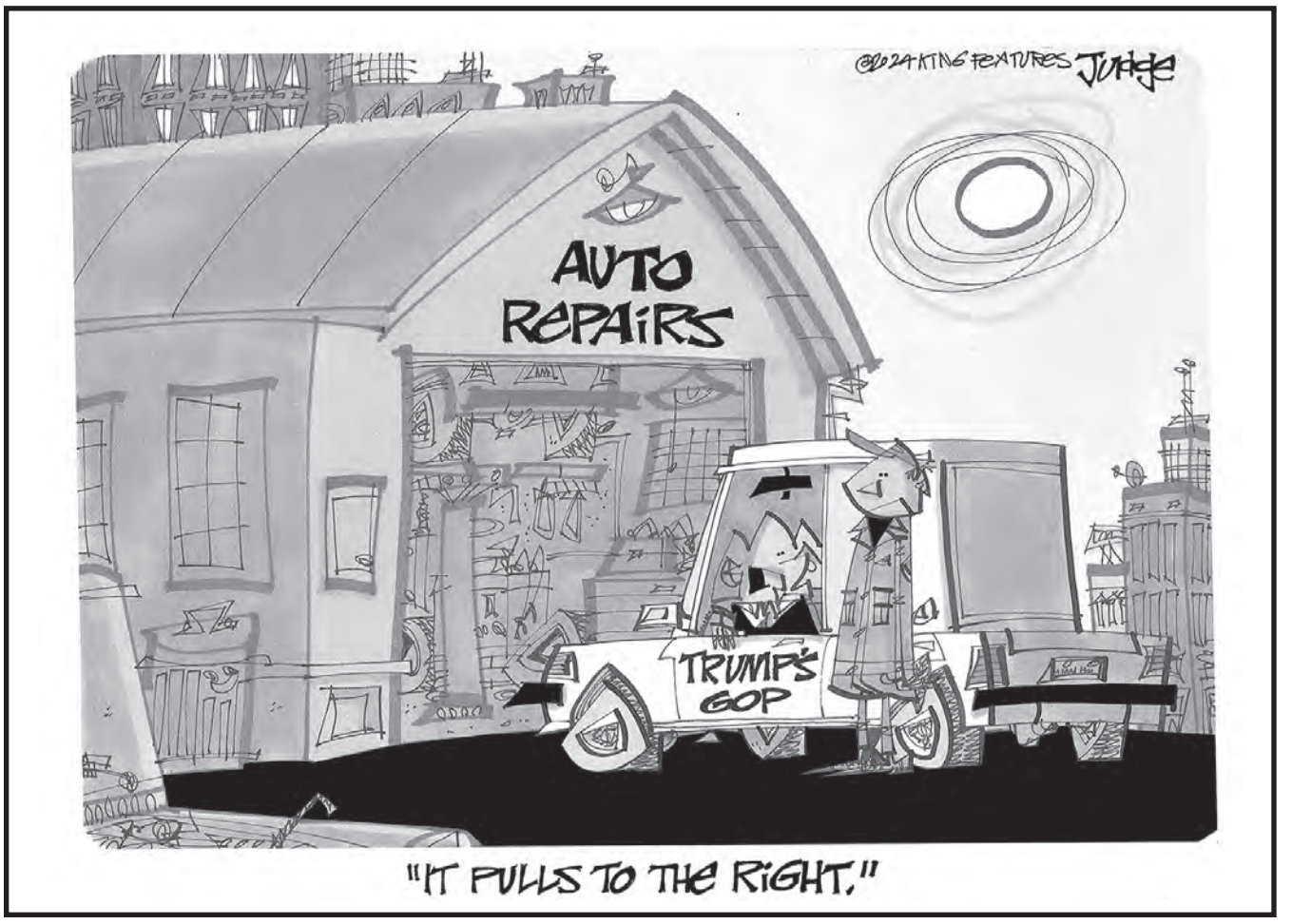

Is there really an 'axis of evil' set on destroying the US?

If we didn't know any better, we might flip through the newspaper and conclude that the international order the United States helped construct after World War II was coming apart. We might also be led to believe that four countries, China, Russia, Iran and North Korea, are not only contributing to its demise but also forming an alliance to destroy the so-called rules-based order that senior U.S. officials crow about.

Since the war in Ukraine erupted in February 2022, U.S. foreign policy experts have used the word "axis" to describe the blossoming relationships among Beijing, Moscow, Tehran and Pyongyang. Some refer to the bloc as an "axis of upheaval"; and others frame it as an "axis of revisionist powers" or the wordier "axis of growing malign partnerships." Even the phrase the "axis of evil," which President George W. Bush famously cited during his 2002 State of the Union address, is reappearing in popular discourse.

But is any of it true? Is this "axis" framing correct? Or is the U.S. dealing with a collection of adversarial states whose interests at the moment are temporarily aligned?

Yes, cooperation among China, Russia, Iran and North Korea is in fact happening. They may be very different countries with different languages, cultures and history, but all four view the United States as a hostile adversary. The U.S. has sanctioned Iran and North Korea to the hilt, and the sanctions have grown only stronger over the last few years. China sees the U.S. as its primary competitor and a country seeking to corral allies to contain Chinese power and development. Russia, of course, has even bigger gripes; were it not for more than $60 billion in U.S. military aid, Russian President Vladimir Putin's troops would likely be in a more advantageous position in Ukraine than they are today.

But we shouldn't overstate the similarities and ignore the nuances. What the U.S. and its allies are confronting is less an "axis," per se, than a temporary alignment that is shallower than it appears.

Take the Russia-North Korea relationship, which is making news at the moment. According to officials from the U.S., South Korea and Ukraine, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un deployed approximately 12,000 of his troops to Russia, where they are undergoing training before being sent to the Kursk region to fight off the ongoing Ukrainian offensive. On the surface, this looks like a big deal: One country, North Korea, is putting its citizens in harm's way on behalf of another, Russia. The deployment comes four months after Kim and Putin signed a comprehensive partnership agreement that binds both to come to each other's defense if either one is attacked or invaded.

By DANIEL DEPETRIS
Chicago Tribune

Daniel DePetris is a fellow at Defense Priorities and a foreign affairs columnist for the Chicago Tribune.

Even this dramatic development, however, is driven by pragmatism. Kim isn't lending thousands of North Koreans to Russia out of the goodness of his heart or because he buys the Kremlin narrative that Ukraine is an artificial creation. He's doing it because, presumably, Russia will pay North Korea back down the line. Indeed, Pyongyang appears to be getting some returns on its investment in the form of desperately needed food aid, energy assistance, support at the United Nations Security Council and transfers of military technology that could improve Pyongyang's satellite program. For example, Russia killed off an extension of a U.N. panel monitoring North Korea sanctions in the spring.

The cost-benefit ratio is in North Korea's favor at the moment.

What about ties between China and Russia? Even before the war in Ukraine, relations between these two former antagonists were improving quite well. The Russian and Chinese delegations have frequently teamed up at the Security Council to stonewall or block U.S. initiatives. The Russian and Chinese militaries are exercising with each other more regularly and even poking the U.S. in the eye on occasion—in July, the U.S. Air Force intercepted a few Russian and Chinese bomber aircraft operating in Alaska's Air Defense Identification Zone. Of most concern to President Joe Biden's administration, China continues to serve as a lifeline for the Russian economy and the Russian war effort, with Beijing receiving discounted oil from Moscow and exporting dual-use items, such as microchips, that could be reapplied to military systems.

But even the strategic partnership between Beijing and Moscow has its limits, notwithstanding what Chinese leader Xi Jinping and Putin may assert otherwise. While there's no question that Russia would be in far worse shape were it not for China's support—Secretary of State Antony Blinken said

See AXIS OF EVIL on Page 7

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Our country needs a new version of the Fairness Doctrine

By JAMES COLTELLA
Chicago Tribune

James Coltella is a freelance writer and strategic communications professional. He recently graduated from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government with a master's in public administration. He grew up in the United Kingdom and Italy.

We live in a world of partisan media, in an ecosystem in which facts can go unchecked and opinion forms the reality for many audiences. But it didn't used to be this way.

In the 1940s, concern over the dominance of the then-three major TV networks, ABC, CBS and NBC, led Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to establish the Fairness Doctrine, a policy that ensured that broadcasters would give airtime to contrasting opinions. It was in place until the late 1980s. Despite Congress' attempts to codify it into law, the FCC under President Ronald Reagan's administration repealed it, allowing for an environment in which biases can run rampant and public trust in journalism is at an all-time low.

The news media play an important role in our society, including by helping citizens understand their society. Political scientists Paul Pierson and Eric Schickler go further, suggesting in their new book "Partisan Nation" that society has come to rely on the media as "arguably the dominant pathway through which citizens make sense of the political world."

Given this dominance, there is an argument to be made not only for responsible journalism but also some new version of the Fairness Doctrine—one that doesn't just give voice to different opinions but also ensures that they are rigorously fact-checked. The media have an opportunity to play a role in quelling polarization and helping lead people back to a moderate understanding of their country and the world in which they live.

Critics argue that attempts to regulate what broadcasters say runs counter to the First Amendment. Given the array of news outlets, they argue that there are ample opportunities to hear different perspectives—it is not the place of authorities to dictate what is fair access and which opinions can be presented.

The fact is that not all people live in areas with reliable internet or cable connections. Last year, Forbes, citing a study by technology company BroadbandNow, reported that 42 million Americans have no access to broadband. And even if they have reliable access to sources of information, do we expect too much from people who are struggling with the realities of day-to-day life? Do they have the wherewithal to fact-check politicians' claims? Audiences should be able to trust their media to provide them with balanced coverage that is free from lies.

This has become all the more important as people become unable to separate truth from partisan fiction spewed by political leaders. When former President Donald Trump called into question the professionalism and impartiality of BBC reporter Jon Sopel, who is subject to the British version of the Fairness Doctrine, he reinforced the idea that we should distrust journalists—particularly those asking the tough questions.

Our journalists must remain free to subject politicians to debates and interviews we as voters need. We require our media to challenge both sides. If people are led to distrust sources that challenge their beliefs, that "is a recipe for misinformation and susceptibility to disinformation," Yochai Benkler, Robert Faris and Hal Roberts argue in their book "Network Propaganda."

Challenging our preconceptions isn't just about helping us admit when we are wrong but also confirming when we might be right. If we fail to listen to different sides of the argument and sources of information, it doesn't matter how plentiful those sources might be.

While some believe that the former president was facing three opponents during ABC's presidential debate, checking wild and baseless claims must be the duty of journalists standing up for principled reporting. When one side appears more extreme in their views, objectivity will of course seem imbalanced, but we can little afford audiences succumbing to ludicrous propaganda, such as about Haitian immigrants eating pets. We must push against confirmation bias and remain tethered to reality so that important policy differences can be questioned and decisions reached about charting the best course forward.

Unfortunately, we live in a time in which people are prone to believing stories not based in fact but rooted in emotion, anchored in a toxic environment of polarizing partisanship. To counter this, we need journalists to be empowered to ask hard questions and challenge perspectives, but most importantly, to be believed.

While we should of course protect free speech, there are media entities that appear to require a new set of rules or journalistic code to ensure that they do not fail in their fact-checking and truth telling. Public trust relies on ethical journalism, and in these high-stakes times, we need guidance so our societal tensions don't boil over and we don't lose the ability to see the truth and make sense of the world.

The US alone is saddled with an Electoral College. How did that happen?

By JOSEPH J. ELLIS
Los Angeles Times

Joseph J. Ellis is a Pulitzer Prize-winning historian. His latest book, scheduled to be published in 2025, is "Realities and Regrets: The Tragic Side of the American Founding."

In 2016 and 2020 Donald Trump lost the popular election by several million votes. But in 2016 he won in the Electoral College with slim majorities in several toss-up states. That is the only way he can win the looming election, a contest all the polls show is too close to call. Once again, it is entirely possible that we will elect a president whom a majority of American voters reject.

The rest of the world finds this arrangement incomprehensible. Although the process varies in the details elsewhere, heads of government tend to be chosen by direct vote or by the party that wins the most votes in a parliamentary election.

So the question becomes, how did the American founders, justifiably famous for their political wisdom, burden us with the strange contraption called the Electoral College?

The answer lies in the historical record of the debates at the Constitutional Convention during the summer months of 1787. As we travel back in time, there are a few features on the historical landscape unique to post-revolutionary America that will strike us as strange.

One is the ghost of Britain's King George III. The debate over executive power, as recorded in contemporaneous journals, letters and articles, is difficult to follow, like watching a soccer match played with three balls and no referees. The one conviction the delegates could all agree on was that the president must not be a monarch who stood above the law. (The recent Supreme Court decision, Trump v. United States, fragrantly defied that core conviction.)

The second strange-to-us feature, even more disturbing to our current political presumptions, is a deep suspicion of democracy. Throughout the American founding the word "democracy" was an epithet, and remained so until the Jacksonian era. The watchword during the founding era was "republic," from the Latin "res publica" meaning "public things." The public interest, for Madison, Jefferson, Washington and the others, was the long-term interest of the people, something the founders thought the bulk of voting Americans (white male landowners) would seldom comprehend because of their limited horizons and susceptibility to conspiracy theories, misinformation and demagogues. (Sound familiar?)

When the question of how to elect a president arrived on the agenda in August 1787, suggestions included election by the Senate, by state Legislatures and finally by popular vote in all the states. Multiple critics objected to the latter option on the grounds that popular opinion was notoriously unreliable.

These raw and misguided opinions needed to be filtered through more informed and educated minds. James Madison stepped forward to coin the term "filtration" and then "Electoral College" to describe state legislators capable of comprehending the long-term public interest, and, if necessary, over-ruling the popular vote in the states. Alexander Hamilton endorsed this "filtration" approach in Federalist 68.

Filtering the presidential choice through electors was not designed to enhance the political power of the Southern, pro-slavery states, but that in fact is what it did. During the debate over how to count population for representation in the House, the delegates passed the three-fifths clause, basing representation on "the number of whites and three-fifths of the blacks." The political advantage the three-fifths clause gave to Southern states in presidential elections was the main reason that Thomas Jefferson was referred to as "the Negro president" after his narrow victory in the election of 1800.

The ironies of the Electoral College abound. The founders did not foresee the emergence of political parties and their winner-take-all slates of electors, which make a mockery of all presumptions of virtuous choosing by a select few. What's left is indeed a filtration of the popular vote, but one that has morphed into a device whereby the minority defeats the majority.

As a result, the very outcome the founders most feared, namely election of a demagogue by a gullible cult of true-believers, has been made possible because of the Electoral College, which was originally designed to avoid precisely that outcome.

Over the past century no feature of the Constitution has generated more criticism and cries for reform than the Electoral College. All have failed, largely because it would require a constitutional amendment, which the founders made politically difficult to pass, requiring a two-thirds vote in both branches of Congress and a three-fourths vote in the states. Too many legislators, not to mention state voters, would opt to retain their power rather than endorse U.S. democracy.

So we are stuck with our electoral albatross. Perhaps the danger posed by a Trump presidency will generate the energy needed for long overdue constitutional reform. If I have them right, a majority of the founders are up there cheering us on to that very end. The first item on their list of fixes would surely be killing the albatross.

AXIS OF EVIL

From page 6

as much in April—Beijing is careful not to throw all its eggs in its Russian basket.

The last thing Xi wants to do at a time when the Chinese economy is starting to slow down is jeopardize relations with the West, which remains China's major trading partner. Russia, whose own trade with China reached a record $240 billion last year, simply can't compete with markets in the United States and the European Union.

Geopolitically, China likely isn't particularly happy with Russia's closer relationship with North Korea. Beijing is used to being the predominant external powerbroker with respect to the North and aims first and foremost to maintain balance and stability on the Korean Peninsula. One can't say the same thing about Russia, whose appetite for risk is higher now than it was. With the war in Ukraine churning on, more U.S. focus on East Asia works for Russia. Not so with China.

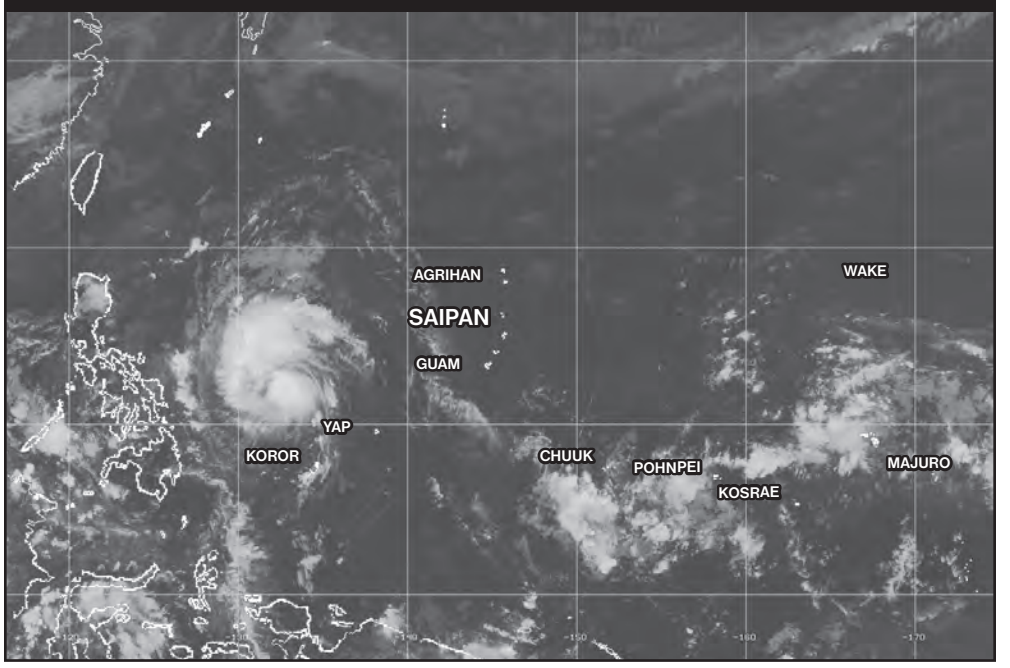
International politics are too complicated for neat binaries.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny. East wind 11 to 14 mph.	A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny. East wind 9 to 14 mph.	A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny.	A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy.	A chance of showers. Partly sunny.
87° / 78°	86° / 78°	86° / 78°	86° / 78°	86° / 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:36 AM MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The next couple of days look rather dry for the Marianas, so there was very little change in the forecast. Forecast zones remain split because the CNMI ends up being substantially wetter from day 3 (Wednesday) onward due to a series of weak disturbances.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Palau	Sunny	85° / 78°
Yap	Sunny	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Cloudy	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Sunny	86° / 77°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:14 AM	5:46 PM
Wednesday	6:14 AM	5:46 PM
Thursday	6:15 AM	5:45 PM
Friday	6:15 AM	5:45 PM
Saturday	6:16 AM	5:45 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	9:14 AM	8:30 PM	-
Wednesday	10:09 AM	9:26 PM	-
Thursday	11:03 AM	10:25 PM	-
Friday	11:54 AM	11:24 PM	-
Saturday	12:42 PM	-	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	72° / 61°
Beijing	Fair	69° / 41°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	81° / 74°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	85° / 75°
London	Mostly Cloudy	57° / 50°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	67° / 57°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 78°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	61° / 46°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	81° / 72°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 50°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	74° / 58°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	61° / 48°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	61° / 45°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	68° / 50°
Salem	Sunny	79° / 59°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	59° / 51°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	74° / 59°
Tokyo	Fair	72° / 54°
Washington, DC	Fair	62° / 45°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:32 AM	Low Tide	-0.34
10:51 AM	High Tide	1.67
4:09 PM	Low Tide	1.24
8:32 PM	High Tide	1.59

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	1:20PM	4:00PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA183	7:55PM	9:50PM	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA076/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	2:30AM	6:25AM	Daily
7C3212	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	3:05AM	5:55AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	10:05PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	00:40AM	6:25AM	3, 6
PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	10:55PM	4:40AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184	00:40AM	8:50AM	3, 6 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3407	11:20PM	3:30PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3211	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW307	8:00PM	1:30AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	6:25PM	1:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Dr. Artemio Hernandez joins APAFS board of governors

HAGATNA, Guam—The Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies is pleased to announce that Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, treasurer and Investment Committee chairperson of the Government of Guam Retirement Fund, has joined the APAFS board of governors. He will assume the position of board chairman in completion of the term of Dr. Wilfred Leon Guerrero, who has left the APAFS board as his term on the GGRF board ended.

Hernandez has been a trustee with GGRF since 2019 and was elected treasurer and Investment Committee chairperson in 2020.

Hernandez is the deputy executive manager of the A.B. Won Pat International Airport Authority, Guam. He is also an adjunct instructor of Accounting and Public Administration at the University of Guam having taught for over a decade in both undergraduate and graduate programs. He serves as the UOG president-appointed board member for the Research Corporation of the UOG board of directors as one of its longest serving members and the Supreme Court of Guam Justices-appointed public member and Tteasurer for the Commission on Lawyer Regulation.

Hernandez was previously the deputy administrator for the Guam Economic Development Authority where management of the public financing and bond issuance activities of the government of Guam is entrusted. Prior to GEDA, he was the director of the Guam Legislature Office of Finance and Budget having been appointed by the late speaker Vicente "Ben" Cabrera Pangelinan and Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz, serving in the office for over eight years. His commitment to public service earned him the recognition of being selected to the inaugural 2020 Council of State Governments National 20 Under 40 Leadership Award, which featured 18 elected and two appointed government officials from around the United States.

Hernandez is a graduate of the University of Guam with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting and subsequently received his Master of Accounting from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and his Ph.D. in Business from Capella University. He is an Accredited Investment Fiduciary® (AIF®), a Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM), an American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) Certified Member (C.M.), an International Airport Professional (IAP) having completed the Airport Management Professional Accreditation Program, and Guam's first Certified Public Procurement Officer (CPPO).

Hernandez

Hernandez joins a distinguished group of 16 fiduciaries of institutional funds from throughout the Asia Pacific region on the APAFS board, to include Dr. Patrick Tellei, president of Palau Community College, APAFS board vice chairman; Anna Mendiola, AIF®, president, FSM Development Bank, APAFS board secretary; and, Raaj Kurapati, AIFA®, executive vice chancellor and COO for the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, APAFS board treasurer.

APAFS (www.apafs.org) is a Guam-based 501c3 association whose membership includes institutional investment funds throughout the Pacific region. Its mission is to promote prudent stewardship and leadership through fiduciary education and to lead advocacy efforts on behalf of its membership. The organization recently celebrated its 22th anniversary. Annually, APAFS hosts a week-long educational conference in Manila. Notable keynote speakers have included, Fareed Zakaria (CNN host and commentator), Mark Mobius (former executive chairman of Templeton), and Marc Faber (author and Swiss investor living in Thailand). ***(PR)***

Federal Reserve set to cut rates again while facing a hazy post-election outlook

WASHINGTON (AP)—No one knows how Tuesday's presidential election will turn out, but the Federal Reserve's move two days later is much easier to predict: With inflation continuing to cool, the Fed is set to cut interest rates for a second time this year.

The presidential contest might still be unresolved when the Fed ends its two-day meeting Thursday afternoon, yet that uncertainty would have no effect on its decision to further reduce its benchmark rate. The Fed's future actions, though, will become more unsettled once a new president and Congress take office in January, particularly if Donald Trump were to win the White House again.

Trump's proposals to impose high tariffs on all imports and launch mass deportations of unauthorized immigrants and his threat to intrude on the Fed's normally independent rate decisions could send inflation surging, economists have said. Higher inflation would, in turn, compel the Fed to slow or stop its rate cuts.

On Thursday, the Fed's policymakers, led by Chair Jerome Powell, are on track to cut their benchmark rate by a quarter-point, to about 4.6%, after having implemented a half-point reduction in September. Economists expect another quarter-point rate cut in December and possibly additional such moves next year. Over time, rate cuts tend to lower the costs of borrowing for consumers and businesses.

The Fed is reducing its rate for a different reason than it usually does: It often cuts rates to boost a sluggish economy and a weak job market by encouraging more borrowing and spending. But the economy is growing briskly, and the unemployment rate is a low 4.1%, the government reported Friday, even with hurricanes and a strike at Boeing having sharply depressed net job growth last month.

AP

Federal Reserve Board Chairman Jerome Powell speaks during a news conference at the Federal Reserve in Washington, on Sept. 18, 2024.

Instead, the central bank is lowering rates as part of what Powell has called "a recalibration" to a lower-inflation environment. When inflation spiked to a four-decade high of 9.1% in June 2022, the Fed proceeded to raise rates 11 times — ultimately sending its key rate to about 5.3%, also the highest in four decades.

But in September, year-over-year inflation dropped to 2.4%, barely above the Fed's 2% target and equal to its level in 2018. With inflation having fallen so far, Powell and other Fed officials have said they think high borrowing rates are no longer necessary. High borrowing rates typically restrict growth, particularly in interest-rate-sensitive sectors such as housing and auto sales.

"The restriction was in place because inflation was elevated," said Claudia Sahm, chief economist at New Century Advisors and a former Fed economist. "Inflation is no longer elevated. The reason for the restriction is gone."

Fed officials have suggested that their rate cuts would be gradual. But nearly all of them have expressed support for some further reductions.

"For me, the central question is how much and how fast to reduce the target for the (Fed's key) rate, which I believe is currently set at a restrictive level," Christopher Waller, an influential member of the Fed's Board of Directors, said in a speech last month.

Jonathan Pingle, an economist at Swiss bank UBS, said that Waller's phrasing reflected "unusual confidence and conviction that rates were headed lower."

Next year, the Fed will likely start to wrestle with the question of just how low their benchmark rate should go. Eventually, they may want to set it at a level that neither restricts nor stimulates growth—"neutral" in Fed parlance.

Powell and other Fed officials acknowledge that they don't know exactly where the neutral rate is. In September, the Fed's rate-setting committee estimated that it was 2.9%. Most economists think it's closer to 3% to 3.5%.

The Fed chair said the officials have to assess where neutral is by how the economy responds to rate cuts. For now, most officials are confident that at 4.9%, the Fed's current rate is far above neutral.

Some economists argue, though, that with the economy looking healthy even with high borrowing rates, the Fed doesn't need to ease credit much, if at all. The idea is that they may already be close to the level of interest rates that neither slows nor stimulates the economy.

"If the unemployment rate stays in the low 4's and the economy is still going to grow at 3%, does it matter that the (Fed's) rate is 4.75% to 5%?" said Joe LaVorgna, chief economist at SMBC Nikko Securities, asked. "Why are they cutting now?"

With the Fed's latest meeting coming right after Election Day, Powell will likely field questions at his news conference Thursday about the outcome of the presidential race and how it might affect the economy and inflation. He can be expected to reiterate that the Fed's decisions aren't affected by politics at all.

During Trump's presidency, he imposed tariffs on washing machines, solar panels, steel and a range of goods from China, which President Joe Biden maintained. Though studies show that washing machine prices rose as a result, overall inflation did not rise much.

But Trump is now proposing significantly broader tariffs—essentially, import taxes—that would raise the prices of about 10 times as many goods from overseas.

Many mainstream economists are alarmed by Trump's latest proposed tariffs, which they say would almost certainly reignite inflation. A report by the Peterson Institute for International Economics concluded that Trump's main tariff proposals would make inflation 2 percentage points higher next year than it otherwise would have been.

The Fed could be more likely to raise rates in response to tariffs this time, according to economists at Pantheon Macroeconomics, "given that Trump is threatening much bigger increases in tariffs."

"Accordingly," they wrote, "we will scale back the reduction in the funds rate in our 2025 forecasts if Trump wins."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

OPEC extends its oil output cuts by one month until the end of December

Saudi Arabia and allied oil producing countries said on Sunday they would postpone a plan to gradually increase oil output until the end of the year, extending their output cuts by one month. No reason was given for the move, which comes ahead of the U.S. presidential election on Tuesday. In June, OPEC said 2.2 million barrels a day in voluntary cuts were extended until September but would then be gradually reduced month by month until they are eliminated by September 2025. OPEC later extended the cuts until November. On Sunday, the group, which includes Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Algeria and Oman, extended the cuts again by one month until the end of December. The announcement was made on the website for the OPEC+ alliance. Oil prices have been edging down as weak global demand overtakes the risk of a wider war in the Mideast. ***(AP)***

Warren Buffett sitting on over $325B cash as Berkshire Hathaway keeps selling Apple stock

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Warren Buffett is now sitting on more than $325 billion cash after continuing to unload billions of dollars worth of Apple and Bank of America shares this year and continuing to collect a steady stream of profits from all of Berkshire Hathaway's assorted businesses without finding any major acquisitions. Berkshire said it sold off about 100 million more Apple shares in the third quarter after halving its massive investment in the iPhone maker last quarter. The remaining stake of roughly 300 million shares was valued at $69.9 billion at the end of September remains Berkshire's biggest single investment, but it has been cut drastically since the end of last year when it was worth $174.3 billion. Investors will also be disappointed to learn that Berkshire didn't repurchase any of its own shares in the quarter. CFRA Research analyst Cathy Seifert said shareholders will wonder why Buffett is continuing to accumulate so much cash. "Are they more pessimistic about the future economic and market picture than perhaps others are?" she said.

Nation

Don't count on recount to change winner in close elections this fall

WASHINGTON (AP)—With the American electorate so evenly divided, there will be elections in November close enough that officials will have to recount the votes. Just don't expect those recounts to change the winner. They rarely do, even when the margins are tiny.

"The (original) count is pretty accurate because the machines work—they work very well," said Tammy Patrick, a former election official in Arizona who is now with the National Association of Election Officials. "We have recounts and we have audits to make sure we got it right."

There have been 36 recounts in statewide general elections since America's most famous recount in 2000. That year, Republican George W. Bush maintained his lead over Democrat Al Gore in Florida—and won the presidency—after a recount was stopped by the Supreme Court.

Since then, only three of those statewide recounts resulted in a new winner, and all three were decided by hundreds of votes, not thousands. That's according to an Associated Press review of statewide recounts using data from the AP vote count, state election offices and research by FairVote, a nonpartisan organization that researches elections and advocates for changes in the way elections are conducted.

Most states allow recounts when the margin between the top candidates falls within a specific margin, such as 0.5 percentage points, even when that means the number of votes separating them is actually in the thousands or even tens of thousands. But there is no precedent for a recount changing the winner in a race with margins that big, at least not since Congress made sweeping changes to U.S. election law in 2002.

The most recent statewide race overturned by a recount was in 2008 in Minnesota. Republican Sen. Norm Coleman led Democrat Al Franken by 215 votes in the initial count, out of more than 2.9 million ballots cast. After a hand recount, Franken won by 225 votes, a shift of 0.02 percentage points, or two one-hundredths of a percentage point.

Among the 36 statewide recounts since 2000, the average change in the winning margin, whether it grew or shrank, was 0.03 percentage points. The biggest shift was 0.11 percentage points in a relatively low turnout race for Vermont auditor in 2006. In that race, incumbent Republican Randy Brock led Democrat Thomas Salmon by 137 votes after the initial count. A recount flipped the race and Salmon won by 102 votes.

Recounts aren't limited to general elections. They happen in primaries, too.

Earlier this year, the Washington state primary for commissioner of public lands went to a recount after the initial tally had Democrat Dave Upthegrove leading Republican Sue Kuehl Pederson by 51 votes, out of more than 1.9 million votes counted, as they vied for second place.

After the recount, Upthegrove's lead shrank by just two votes. In Washington's primary system, the top two candidates advance to the general election, regardless of their political party.

There are even more recounts in downballot races that are sometimes decided by a handful of votes. But even in these lower turnout elections, recounts rarely change the winners.

"Recounts are shifting a very small number of votes," said Deb Otis, director of research and policy at FairVote. "We're going to see recounts in 2024 that are not going to change the outcome."

States have a wide variety of laws on when and how recounts are conducted. Many states have automatic recounts if the margin between the top two candidates is within a certain margin. The most common margin is 0.5 percentage points, but there is a lot of variation. Some states allow candidates to request recounts but require that they pay for them—unless the winner changes.

Trump talks about reporters being shot and says he shouldn't have left White House after 2020 loss

LITITZ, Pa. (AP)—Donald Trump delivered a profane and conspiracy-laden speech two days before Tuesday's presidential election, talking about reporters being shot and suggesting he "shouldn't have left" the White House after his 2020 loss to Democrat Joe Biden.

In remarks Sunday that bore little resemblance to the speech he's been delivering at his recent rallies, the former president repeatedly cast doubt on the integrity of the vote and resurrected old grievances after trying to overturn his 2020 election defeat. Trump intensified his verbal attacks on what he cast as a "demonic" Democratic Party and the American media, steering his rally in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, at one point to the topic of violence against members of the press.

He noted the ballistic glass that is used to protect him at outdoor events after a gunman's assassination attempt in July and pointed to openings between the panels.

"I have this piece of glass here," he said. "But all we have really over here is the fake news. And to get me, somebody would have to shoot through the fake news. And I don't mind that so much."

It was the second time in recent days that Trump has talked about guns being pointed at people he considers enemies. He suggested former Rep. Liz Cheney, a prominent Republican critic, wouldn't be willing to support foreign wars if she had "nine barrels shooting at her."

Facing criticism for suggesting violence against the media, Trump's campaign later played down his comments.

"The President's statement about protective glass placement has nothing to do with the Media being harmed, or anything else," Trump campaign spokesperson Steven Cheung said in a statement. Instead he claimed that Trump was suggesting that reporters were in "great danger themselves, and should have had a glass protective shield, also. There can be no other interpretation of what was said. He was actually looking out for their welfare, far more than his own!"

Trump also revived falsehoods about elections and argued that he can only lose to Democrat Kamala Harris if he is cheated, even though polls suggest a very tight race.

"It's a crooked country," Trump railed to his crowd on a chilly airport tarmac, returning to the grievance that had defined the early days of his campaign. "They'll want to put you in jail because you want to make it straight. Think of it, think of it. They cheat in elections and you call them on it and they want to put you in jail."

World

Israel says it carried out ground raid into Syria

JERUSALEM (AP)—The Israeli military said Sunday it has carried out a ground raid into Syria, seizing a Syrian citizen involved in Iranian networks. It was the first time in the current war that Israel announced its troops operated in Syrian territory.

Israel has carried out airstrikes in Syria multiple times over the past year, targeting members of Lebanon's Hezbollah and officials from Iran, the close ally of both Hezbollah and Syria. But it has not previously made public any ground forays into Syria.

» Seizing Syrian citizen connected to Iran

AP

A man inspects a destroyed building hit in an Israeli airstrike, in Ghaziyeh town, south Lebanon, Sunday, Nov. 3, 2024.

The Israeli military said the seizure was part of a special operation "that took place in recent months," though it did not say exactly when it occurred. Syria did not immediately confirm the announcement, but a pro-government Syrian radio station, Sham FM, reported Sunday that Israeli forces carried out a "kidnapping operation" over the summer targeting a man in the south of the country.

Israel has waged an escalating campaign of bombardment in Lebanon for the past six weeks, as well as a ground invasion along the countries' shared border, vowing to cripple Hezbollah. On Saturday, an Israeli military official said naval forces carried out a raid in a northern Lebanese town, seizing a man they called a senior Hezbollah operative.

The army identified the man as Ali Soleiman al-Assi, saying he lives in the southern Syrian region of Saida. It said the man had been under military surveillance for many months and was involved in Iranian initiatives targeting areas of the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights near the border with Syria.

Body camera video of the raid released by the army showed soldiers seizing a man in a white tank top inside a building. The man was brought to Israel for interrogation, the military said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited the border with Lebanon on Sunday, saying his focus was trying to keep Hezbollah from rearming itself through the "oxygen lifeline" of Iranian weapons transferred to Lebanon via Syria. Israel says its campaign in Lebanon aims to push Hezbollah away from the border and put an end to more than a year of fire by the group into northern Israel.

Israel's strikes in Lebanon have killed more than 2,500 people over the past year. In Israel, 69 people have been killed by Hezbollah projectiles.

On the U.S. presidential campaign trail this weekend, Vice President Kamala Harris acknowledged progressives and members of the state's significant population of Arab Americans who are angry at the Biden administration for its continuation of the U.S. alliance with Israel as the Netanyahu government presses its war against Hamas in Gaza.

"I have been very clear that the level of death of innocent Palestinians is unconscionable," Harris told reporters.

Russia sends nearly 100 drones into Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Moscow sent 96 drones and a guided air missile into Ukraine overnight into Sunday, Ukrainian officials said.

According to Ukraine's Air Force, 66 drones were destroyed during the overnight barrage, along with the missile. A further 27 drones were "lost" over various areas, it said, likely having been electronically jammed, while one drone flew into Belarusian airspace. No casualties were reported.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Sunday that Russia had launched around 900 guided aerial bombs, 500 drones and 30 missiles against Ukraine over the past week.

Zelenskyy appealed Sunday on X to Ukraine's allies to provide "long-range capabilities for our security", saying that these "attacks would have been impossible if we had sufficient support from the world." Kyiv is still awaiting word from its Western partners on its repeated requests to use the long-range weapons they provide to hit targets on Russian soil, including for preemptive Ukrainian strikes on camps where North Korean troops are being trained.

The Ukrainian President also urged partners to enact "truly effective sanctions to prevent Russia from importing critical components for drone and missile production". This appeal followed an address on Saturday, in which he said over 2,000 drones and missiles "still using Western components" were launched against Ukraine in October, and underlined the need for more stringent export controls to prevent sanctions evasion.

In Russia, the Defense Ministry said that 19 Ukrainian drones were shot down overnight into Sunday in three regions of Russia: 16 in the Rostov region, two in the Belgorod region and one in the Volgograd region.

A man died Sunday in a Ukrainian drone attack in the Belgorod region, according to regional Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov.

Life & Style

Kamala Harris appears on 'Saturday Night Live'

NEW YORK (AP)—Kamala Harris made a surprise appearance on "Saturday Night Live" in the final days before the presidential election, playing herself as the mirror-image double of Maya Rudolph's version of her in the show's cold open.

The first lines the candidate spoke as she sat across from Rudolph, their outfits identical, were drowned out by cheers from the audience.

"It is nice to see you Kamala," Harris told Rudolph with a broad grin she kept throughout the sketch. "And I'm just here to remind you, you got this."

In sync, the two said supporters need to "Keep Kamala and carry-on-ala," declared that they share each other's "belief in the promise of America" and delivered the signature "Live from New York it's Saturday night!"

Harris made the surprise trip to New York before Tuesday's election, taking a brief break from the battleground states where she has been campaigning. With the appearance on NBC's sketch comedy show, the Democratic nominee was hoping to generate buzz and appeal to a nationwide audience.

AP
Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris appears on NBC's "Saturday Night Live," with Maya Rudolph, Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024 in New York.

Harris had left Charlotte, North Carolina and was scheduled to head to Detroit, but once in the air, aides said she would be landing elsewhere. The appearance was only confirmed by Harris' team moments before the live airing began.

The vice president arrived at 30 Rockefeller Plaza in Manhattan, where "SNL" tapes, shortly after 8 p.m., enough time for a quick rehearsal before the show aired live at 11:30 p.m. It was the final "SNL" episode before Election Day.

She left immediately after the opening segment and told reporters, "It was fun!" as she boarded her plane for Michigan.

Host John Mulaney and musical guest Chappell Roan shifted the show away from politics. Neither addressed the election.

Some expected Roan, the 26-year-old singer who has become a major star in recent months, to make a political statement in her first appearance on the show. She has previously been harshly critical of the Democratic Party and declined to endorse Harris in her campaign against Republican Donald Trump, although Roan has said several times she plans to vote for her.

Roan sang her hit "Pink Pony Club," on an all-pink set bathed in pink light and made no remarks.

Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., also made a surprise appearance, in a game-show sketch where the gag was that no one remembered him despite his being Hillary Clinton's running mate in 2016.

"It's been less than eight years. What's my name?," he said, as the contestants stood silent and flummoxed.

Rudolph first played Harris on the show in 2019 and has reprised her role this season, doing a spot-on impression of the vice president, including calling herself "Momala"—a reference to the affectionate nickname that Harris' stepchildren gave her.

Fellow former cast member Andy Samberg appeared again as Harris' husband, second gentleman Doug Emhoff. Standup comic Jim Gaffigan played Harris' running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz. Dana Carvey, best known on the show for playing President George H.W. Bush in the late 1980s, stood in for President Joe Biden.

'Venom 3' tops box office again, while Tom Hanks film struggles

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

"Venom: The Last Dance" enjoyed another weekend at the top of the box office. The Sony release starring Tom Hardy added $26.1 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday.

It was a relatively quiet weekend for North American movie theaters leading up to the presidential election. Charts were dominated by big studio holdovers, like "Venom 3," "The Wild Robot" and "Smile 2," while audiences roundly rejected the Tom Hanks, Robin Wright and Robert Zemeckis reunion "Here." Thirty years after "Forrest Gump," "Here" opened to only $5 million from 2,647 locations.

"Venom 3" only fell 49% in its second weekend, which is a notably small drop for a superhero film, though it didn't exactly open like one either. In two weeks, the movie has made over $90 million domestically; The first two opened to over $80 million. Globally, the picture is brighter given that it has already crossed the $300 million threshold.

Meanwhile, Universal and Illumination's "The Wild Robot" continues to attract moviegoers even six weeks in (and when it's available by video on demand), placing second with $7.6 million. That's up 11% from last weekend. The animated charmer has made over $121 million in North America and $269 million worldwide.

"'The Wild Robot' has quietly been this absolute juggernaut for the fall season," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. "For that film to see an increase after six weeks is astounding."

"Smile 2" landed in third place with $6.8 million, helping to push its worldwide total to $109.7 million.

The time-hopping "Here," a graphic novel that was adapted by "Forrest Gump" screenwriter Eric Roth, was financed by Miramax and distributed by Sony's TriStar. With a fixed position camera, it takes audiences through the years in one living room. Critics were not on board: In aggregate it has a lousy 36% on Rotten Tomatoes.

"It was a slow weekend anyway, but it didn't resonate in a way that many thought it might," Dergarabedian said. "There are a lot of films out there for the audience that 'Here' was chasing."

Despite playing in almost 1,000 more locations, "Here" came in behind Focus Features' papal thriller "Conclave," which earned $5.3 million. Playing in 1,796 theaters, "Conclave" dropped only 20% from its debut last weekend and has made $15.2 million so far. Two Indian films also cracked the top 10 in their debuts, "Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3" and "Singham Again."

Overall box office continues to lag behind 2023 by almost 12%. But holiday moviegoing will likely give the industry an end-of-year boost with titles like "Gladiator II" and "Wicked" on the way.

"In a couple of weeks, it'll get a lot more competitive," Dergarabedian said.

Cash for niece's shower pays for cruise instead

DEAR ABBY: My sister recently lost her husband, who passed away after a brief fight with cancer. Her daughter, my niece, was scheduled to be married later this year. They struggle with finances, and my brother-in-law's death exacerbated the situation. In order to help out, my wife and I quietly gave them $1,000 to put toward my niece's shower so they could have it at a nice place. My sister was appreciative, but we unfortunately heard nothing from my niece.

Fast-forward a couple months, and the wedding is now called off. My sister and her daughter recently went on a cruise and have told me they have booked another. There has been no mention about returning our $1,000. My wife is becoming increasingly frustrated and wants to say something to my sister, which will create a family feud. While I agree the money should be returned, I am inclined to just write it off rather than stir up a mess. I would love to hear your perspective.

GENEROUS IN THE EAST

DEAR GENEROUS: My perspective is that where your sister and her daughter are concerned, you should firmly close your wallet. The money is gone, and you are right that raising the issue will cause ill will. Your generosity should have been acknowledged, and when the wedding was called off, your money should have been returned rather than applied to a mother/daughter vacation. If your niece does manage to get married in the future, remember that you have already given her a "wedding gift."

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Our family is having its first reunion since my mother and father have been gone. We three brothers are now the oldest generation. My older brothers are planning the event. They are inviting my ex-wife of 21 years, but none of my three nephews' exes. This is upsetting to me and my wife of 20 years.

I feel strongly that when you marry, you marry into the family, and when you divorce, you divorce "out" of the family. My ex-wife and two sisters-in-law have remained close friends since our divorce and have shunned my present wife.

Should we be upset about the invitation? Should we not attend if my ex comes? One brother says she is still "part of the family" and should be included. My wife and I are furious. Who is right here?

PARTY POOPER IN IOWA

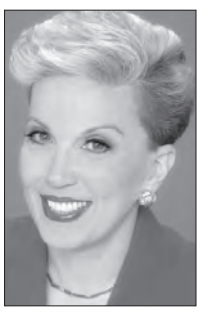
DEAR PARTY POOPER: Did your parents include your former wife at previous family reunions? If they did, I can understand why she would be welcomed at this one. However, if they did not, I can understand your feelings, in light of the fact that your siblings' wives have shunned your wife of 20 years.

That said, not all divorces are the same. Some former couples manage an amicable severance, and you cannot and should not dictate who your relatives choose to maintain relationships with. If you and your wife would feel more comfortable skipping the reunion, I wouldn't blame you.

■■■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY
BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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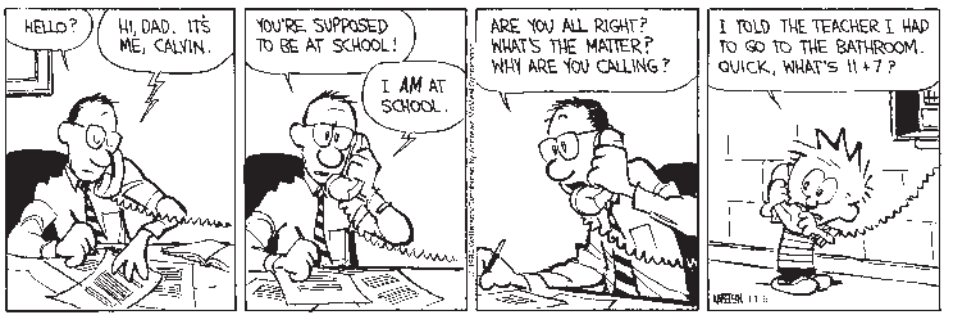
Pastimes

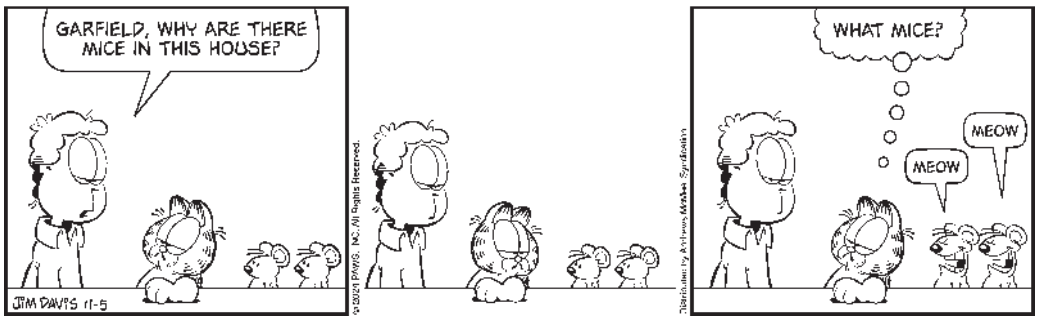
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HELLO?
HI, DAD. IT'S ME, CALVIN.
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE AT SCHOOL!
I AM AT SCHOOL.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHY ARE YOU CALLING?
I TOLD THE TEACHER I HAD TO GO TO THE BATHROOM. QUICK, WHAT'S 11+7?

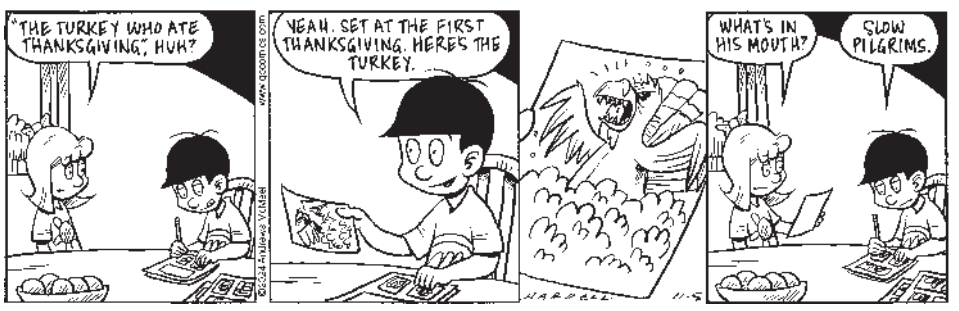
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



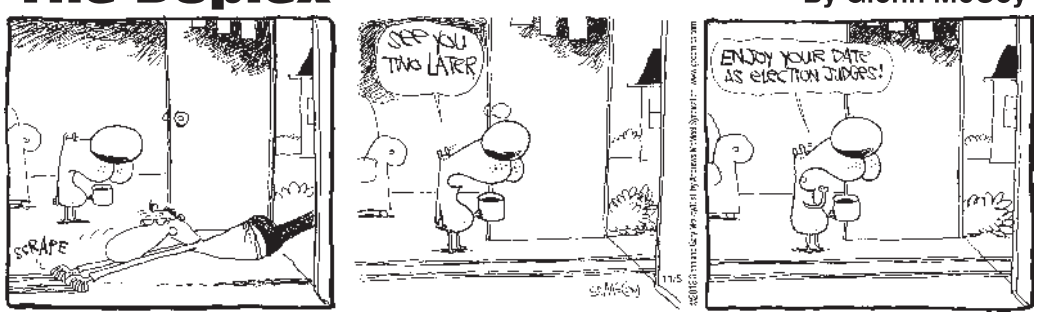
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


"THE TURKEY WHO ATE THANKSGIVING", HUH?
YEAH. SET AT THE FIRST THANKSGIVING. HERE'S THE TURKEY.
WHAT'S IN HIS MOUTH?
SLOW PILGRIMS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Pen pals?
5 Calendar squares
9 "So there!"
12 From the top
13 "— Excited" (Pointer Sisters hit)
14 Hoppy brew
15 Hydro-power producer
17 Fish-fowl insert
18 Pro votes
19 Milk dispenser
21 Social division
24 Help in a heist
25 Allows
26 Window casings, trim, e.g.
30 NPR's Shapiro
31 Wartime riveter
32 Tri-umphed
33 Toil away
35 Big party
36 Indy winner A.J.
37 Donny-brook
38 Deserve
40 Sports group
42 Inventor Whitney
43 Pipe clogger, at times
48 Mao — -tung
49 1003, in old Rome
50 Dryer fuzz
51 Blue
52 Piggy bank opening
53 Slender weapon

DOWN
1 Furry foot
2 — bind
3 Retrieve
4 Workout wear
5 Ten-cent piece
6 "Lucky Jim" author
7 Designer mono-gram
8 Like salt in H_2O
9 Small wiper
10 Lotion additive
11 Frau's mate
16 Deli bread
20 Lawn coating
21 Hammer part
22 Aviation prefix
23 Prepared in a wok
24 "Put — on it!"
26 Castle defense
27 Medit. nation
28 Memory method
29 Leg joint
31 Beats
34 Japanese pond carp
35 Like does and mares
37 Big mouth
38 Citi Field squad
39 "Frozen" snow queen
40 Sextet half
41 Revise
44 Have the flu
45 Bit of advice
46 Away from WSW
47 Num-bered rd.

Solution time: 22 mins.

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S	P	F	I	T	■	B	I	O	B	■	■	■
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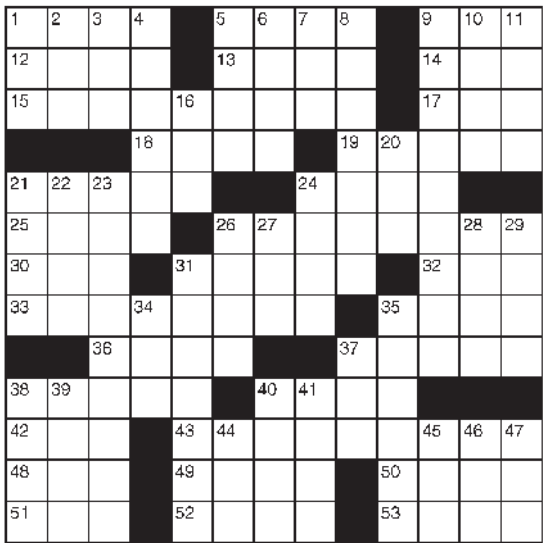
Yesterday's answer 11-5



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kevin Jonas, 37; Tatum O'Neal, 61; Bryan Adams, 65; Art Garfunkel, 83.

Happy Birthday: Refresh and begin again. Wipe your slate clean and clear the path for better days ahead. Use your imagination and change whatever is slowing you down. Refuse to let anyone take advantage of you physically or financially. Put a plan in place that allows you to move forward with budget ideas to improve your life. Put your energy to good use, and distance yourself from interference. Your numbers are 7, 13, 22, 27, 32, 39, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19): Take care of institutional, bureaucratic or financial matters personally. Verify the information you receive and press forward with questions and options to ens*ure you get things done to the best of your ability. Refuse to let emotional matters spin out of control or cost you unnecessarily. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Take a unique approach to whatever you pursue. Reinvent how you present and promote what you have to offer, and the reaction you receive will provide insight into how to tweak your delivery or skills to suit what's trending. Patience will save time by eliminating mistakes. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Direct and open communication will help keep the peace and avoid misleading circumstances that can slow down progress. Look for opportunities and act; be the one to lead the way and put a dent in whatever requires attention. Personal gain and growth are favored. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Step in and take over. Time spent tidying up loose ends will save money, offer insight into something you do well and bring in extra cash. Pay attention to situations that reflect a hidden agenda. Refrain from trusting people to take care of your concerns or business. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Apply pressure where needed and use physical labor to ensure things get done on time. Participate in an event that offers a challenge you find gratifying or that will encourage an encounter with someone who enriches your life. Personal and physical improvement will disclose opportunities. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Keep an open mind and try not to overreact to situations or comments. Criticism will make matters worse, but if you put your energy into educational pursuits or self-improvement instead of trying to change others, you'll feel good about your achievements and avoid negative interactions. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Short trips, with destinations that teach you something or bring you in contact with someone who makes you think, will prompt inner change and a better lifestyle. Put your best foot forward and explore the possibilities. A change will encourage you to concentrate on personal happiness and gratification. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* A steady pace will deter others from standing in your way. Stay on top of money matters to avoid overpaying for something you can get cheaper elsewhere. Research and dedication are your ticket to finishing what you start and being happy with the results. Simplicity and moderation are favored. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Think, develop and perfect your idea before you share your plan with others. Your objective is to avoid interference. Use your time effectively to ease stress and point you in a direction that offers personal and financial gains. Implement positive change, and you'll prosper. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Refuse to suffocate your dreams when, realistically, they will stimulate your mind and encourage you to focus on personal contentment, happiness and health. Spend time working through any issues that may slow you down. Taking a unique approach is beneficial, if your plan is feasible. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Be demonstrative if it will help you raise interest in something you have to offer. Take the initiative to physically follow through instead of just talking about your dreams. Opportunity begins with you and your enthusiasm. Don't limit what you can do or let outside influences discourage you. 3 stars

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Focus on what you want to achieve and refuse to let anyone's behavior deter you from what you want to accomplish. Choose your words carefully to sidestep criticisms, arguments or demands that help others more than you. Moderation and a simple lifestyle are in your best interest. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are fun-loving, entertaining and optimistic. You are energetic and adventurous.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1	2		3					
4	6			8	1		2	9
	8		6	2			1	
7		3				2	8	5
8	5			7	3			
	4			9			3	
				3	8	9	6	
	1	8	9		2			
	3	6	1		7			

Difficulty: ★★ 11/5

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	2	9	1	4	3	7	5	8
1	3	5	2	7	8	9	6	4
7	4	8	9	6	5	3	2	1
3	5	1	7	9	4	2	8	6
2	6	7	8	3	1	4	9	5
9	8	4	6	5	2	1	3	7
5	7	2	4	8	9	6	1	3
8	1	6	3	2	7	5	4	9
4	9	3	5	1	6	8	7	2

Difficulty: ★ 11/4

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

IT'S BEEN A PSEPHOLOGICAL YEAR Solution: 9 letters

S	C	O	S	F	R	M	P	H	T	U	O	Y	N	R
B	C	K	E	C	M	A	C	B	N	A	T	A	U	O
C	E	I	A	E	I	E	S	S	A	I	B	R	P	N
W	H	U	H	X	E	T	D	M	C	R	A	P	O	R
C	S	N	F	P	S	G	S	I	U	L	A	I	L	E
E	E	G	S	E	A	N	R	I	A	S	N	A	I	V
Ⓥ	R	I	N	R	D	R	O	A	T	I	S	G	C	O
Ⓞ	U	A	B	T	S	E	G	I	P	A	R	E	Y	G
Ⓣ	T	P	S	A	L	M	R	O	T	H	T	S	N	O
Ⓔ	U	M	T	R	L	I	A	A	M	C	S	S	N	A
E	F	A	L	G	O	L	B	Y	L	E	E	B	C	L
T	E	C	U	U	P	C	O	F	O	X	D	L	O	S
A	C	E	S	E	S	E	C	T	O	R	N	A	E	J
T	S	R	E	T	E	M	O	G	N	I	W	S	T	G
S	F	O	R	E	C	A	S	T	I	D	N	U	P	A

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ABC, Ages, Argue, Ballot, Bias, Campaign, Cause, CBS, Chief, City, CNN, Data, Demographics, Elections, Expert, FEC, Federal, Forecast, Fox, Future, Goals, Governor, Graphs, Guess, Jobs, Mayor, Media, NBC, Opinion, Past, Policy, Polls, Pundit, Rasmussen, Results, Rural, Sector, Senate, Skew, Speech, State, Statistics, Swingometer, Urban, Vote, Youth

Yesterday's Answer: Encourage

For WONDERWORD apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

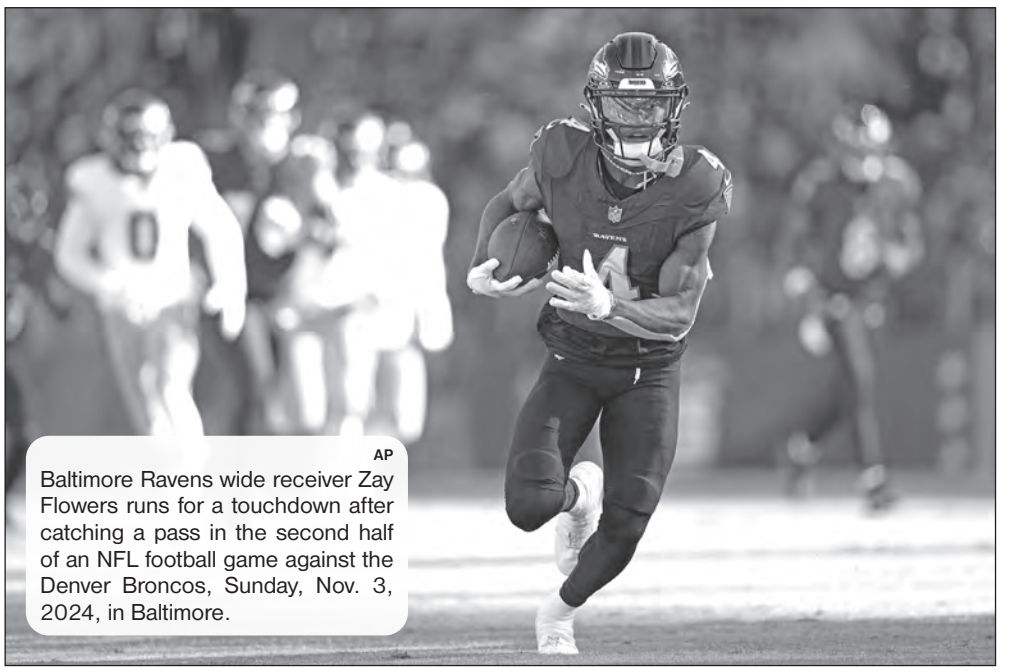
Jackson ends with perfect passer rating, Ravens dismantle Broncos

BALTIMORE (AP)—Lamar Jackson threw for 280 yards and three touchdowns to finish with a perfect passer rating, Derrick Henry surpassed a few more rushing milestones, and the Baltimore Ravens had little difficulty with Denver's defense in a 41-10 victory Sunday.

Baltimore's beleaguered defense didn't force a punt until the third quarter, but a couple early fourth-down stops helped the Ravens (6-3) build a lead as they rebounded from last weekend's surprising loss at Cleveland. Zay Flowers had five catches for 127 yards and two touchdowns, and Henry rushed for 107 yards and two TDs.

Rookie quarterback Bo Nix caught a touchdown pass on a trick play for Denver, but the Broncos (5-4) looked outclassed at the beginning of a tough two-game stretch on their schedule. They visit Kansas City next weekend.

Henry scored the 100th and 101st rushing touchdowns of his career, and he surpassed 1,000 yards on the ground on the season for the sixth time. Henry has scored in every game this season, and he is the third player to manage at least 10 rushing TDs in seven consecutive years, joining LaDainian Tomlinson (2001-09) and Adrian Peterson (2007-13).



AP

Baltimore Ravens wide receiver Zay Flowers runs for a touchdown after catching a pass in the second half of an NFL football game against the Denver Broncos, Sunday, Nov. 3, 2024, in Baltimore.

FALCONS 27, COWBOYS 21

ATLANTA (AP)—Kirk Cousins threw three touchdown passes and Atlanta maintained their hold on first place in the NFC South with a victory over struggling Dallas, who took their third straight setback and lost quarterback Dak Prescott to a hamstring injury.

Cousins completed 19 of 24 passes for 222 yards, including 13 in a row at one point for the Falcons (6-3). He had scoring plays of 9 yards to Drake London, 36 yards to Darnell Mooney and 11 yards to Ray-Ray McCloud, the third three-TD game of the quarterback's debut season with Atlanta.

Tyler Allgeier capped the Falcons' fifth win in six games by powering into the end zone from 6 yards with just over 11 minutes remaining.

The Cowboys (3-5) tried to rally behind Cooper Rush after Prescott was ruled out, having completed 18 of 24 for 133 yards and a touchdown.

CHARGERS 27, BROWNS 10

CLEVELAND (AP)—Justin Herbert passed for 250 yards and two touchdowns — all in the first half — to lead Los Angeles to a victory over Cleveland, who couldn't get anything going with Jameis Winston.

Herbert connected on a 66-yard TD pass to Quentin Johnston and a 27-yarder to Joshua Palmer as the Chargers (5-3) built a big halftime lead and rolled to their fifth straight win over Cleveland.

Herbert finished 18 of 27 for 282 yards and was sacked six times.

J.K. Dobbins had two rushing touchdowns for Los Angeles.

The Chargers' defense, which came in allowing a league-low 13 points per game, intercepted Winston three times, sacked him six more and limited the Browns (2-7) to just 57 yards in the first 30 minutes.

COMMANDERS 27, GIANTS 22

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Sensational rookie Jayden Daniels threw two touchdown passes to Terry McLaurin, and Washington beat bumbling New York for their best start to a season in almost 30 years.

Daniels hit McLaurin on scoring passes of 1 and 18 yards in the first half, and Austin Ekeler, filling in for the injured Brian Robinson, scored on a 1-yard run as the Commanders completed a season sweep of the NFC East rival Giants (2-7). Washington is 7-2 for the first time since 1996.

Austin Seibert, who kicked seven field goals in the Commanders' 21-18 win in September, added two more, and linebacker Dante Fowler had a big strip-sack early to set up the opening touchdown. The Giants have lost four straight and fell to 0-5 at home.

Daniel Jones threw a 2-yard touchdown pass to tight end Chris Manhertz and powered his way through two tackles on a 2-yard fourth-quarter TD run for New York. He added a late 35-yard TD pass to rookie Theo Johnson, but the Giants missed both 2-point conversions. Jude McAtamney kicked a 31-yard field goal in the Irishman's NFL debut.

BENGALS 41, RAIDERS 24

CINCINNATI (AP)—Joe Burrow tied a career high with five touchdown passes, Chase Brown rushed for a career-high 120 yards and Cincinnati got their first home win after routing Las Vegas.

Burrow was 27 for 39 for 251 yards. He threw touchdown passes to Brown, Andrei Iosivas, Drew Sample and the last two to Mike Gesicki. But he also had an interception that was returned by Jack Jones for a TD early in the fourth quarter.

Brown, who got a season-high 27 carries with Zack Moss sidelined with a neck injury, consistently picked up chunks of yards for the Bengals, who have struggled running the ball this season.

The Raiders (2-7) aided Cincinnati drives with penalties, and quarterback Gardner Minshew fumbled the ball away in the third, leading to a 10-yard TD catch by Gesicki, his first since last Christmas Eve when he played for the Patriots. That put the Bengals up 31-10.

PANTHERS 23, SAINTS 22

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Chuba Hubbard scored on a 16-yard run with 2:18 left and Carolina snapped a five-game losing streak, beating New Orleans.

Bryce Young completed 16 of 26 passes for 171 yards a touchdown to improve to 1-3 against the Saints in his career. Coach Dave Canales would not say after the game if Young would start next Sunday against the New York Giants in Munich.

Hubbard ran for 72 yards and two touchdowns.

The Panthers (2-7) got big games from a pair of rookies as tight end Ja'Tavion Sanders caught four passes for 87 yards and wide receiver Xavier Legette had his fourth touchdown of the season to avenge an embarrassing 47-10 Week 1 loss to their division foes.

BILLS 30, DOLPHINS 27

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)—Tyler Bass kicked a career-best 61-yard field goal with 5 seconds left, Josh Allen threw three second-half touchdown passes in a back-and-forth duel with Miami's Tua Tagovailoa, and Buffalo continued their domination of the Dolphins with a victory.

The teams traded leads four times in a thrilling second half that included seven consecutive scoring drives—four by AFC East-leading Buffalo (7-2) and three by division rival Miami (2-6).

Buffalo's final drive stalled at the Miami 43 following a spike and two incompletions, and coach Sean McDermott put his faith in the inconsistent Bass, who missed an extra point earlier in the game. Bass not only split the uprights, but had enough length to reach the first row of fans in the end zone. It was the longest field goal in franchise history.

The Bills are 7-2 for the first time since 2020 and moved four games ahead of the New York Jets in the AFC East, which they have won the past four seasons. Buffalo swept its season series against Miami and has beaten Miami six straight times and 13 of 14, including playoffs. The Dolphins have also lost nine straight trips to Buffalo, a skid that dates to Dec. 24, 2016.

TITANS 20, PATRIOTS 17, OT

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Nick Folk kicked a 25-yard field goal with 2:32 left in overtime and Tennessee beat New England, giving coach Brian Callahan his first victory at home this season.

The Titans (2-6) snapped both a three-game skid overall and at Nissan Stadium.

The Patriots (2-7) got rookie Drake Maye back after the third overall pick out of North Carolina cleared the concussion protocol Saturday. He started after being knocked out of last week's win over the Jets and used his legs, running for a career-best and team-high 95 yards.

New England had a final chance after Maye forced overtime with a 5-yard TD pass to Rhamondre Stevenson. But Amani Hooker's second interception of the game clinched the victory for the Titans with 2:07 left.

CARDINALS 29, BEARS 9

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Emari Demercado ran 53 yards for a touchdown just before halftime, James Conner added 107 yards on the ground and surging Arizona put together a dominant victory over Chicago.

The Cardinals (5-4) have won three in a row for the first time in three seasons.

It's another tough loss for the Bears (4-4), who have dropped two straight. They lost to the Commanders 18-15 last week on a Hail Mary and were burned once again as the clock was winding down against the Cardinals, though this lapse came in the final seconds of the first half.

Chicago rookie quarterback Caleb Williams was sacked six times, completing 22 of 41 passes for 216 yards. The Bears had just 241 yards total.

EAGLES 28, JAGUARS 23

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Saquon Barkley made a dazzling backward hurdle during a stellar performance and Nakobe Dean had a game-saving interception to help Philadelphia to their fourth straight win over Jacksonville.

Barkley had 27 carries for 159 yards and a touchdown. He also had three receptions for 40 yards and a TD.

The Eagles (6-2) held on after coach Nick Sirianni wasted chances to put easy points on the board. The Eagles went 0 for 2 on fourth down and were 0 for 3 on 2-point conversions, forcing them to let Jake Elliott try a 57-yard field goal with 2:16 left.

Elliott missed, giving the Jaguars (2-7) the ball at their own 47-yard line.

But Jacksonville's second-half rally ended when Trevor Lawrence's terrible pass was picked off in the end zone by Dean for the linebacker's first career interception.

LIONS 24, PACKERS 14

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Kerby Joseph scored on a 27-yard interception return and Detroit converted two fourth downs into touchdowns as they continued one of the best starts in franchise history by beating Green Bay.

The NFC North-leading Lions are 7-1 for the first time since 1956. They withstood the second-quarter ejection of safety Brian Banks and won at Lambeau Field for a third straight year, thriving on a rainy and windy day.

Detroit took the lead for good on the first play of the second quarter when Jared Goff hit Amon-Ra St. Brown for a 3-yard touchdown on fourth-and-goal. Jahmyr Gibbs capped the opening drive of the second half by rushing for a 15-yard touchdown on fourth-and-1 to extend the Lions' lead to 24-3.

Goff had another efficient day, finishing 18 of 22 for 145 yards.

RAMS 26, SEAHAWKS 20, OT

SEATTLE (AP)—Demarcus Robinson made a one-handed, 39-yard touchdown reception in overtime, and Los Angeles stunned Seattle.

With the Rams needing only a field goal after stuffing the Seahawks on fourth down on the first possession of OT, Matthew Stafford went for the win by throwing a deep ball to Robinson, who was well covered by cornerback Riq Woolen. With his one free hand, Robinson grabbed the ball in the end zone and secured it as he fell to the turf.

Stafford threw for 298 yards and two touchdowns for the Rams (4-4), who have won three straight after losing four of their previous five. Robinson finished with six catches for 94 yards and both scores.

Geno Smith threw for 363 yards with three touchdowns and three interceptions for the Seahawks (4-5), who have lost four straight at home and five of six overall to fall into last place in the bunched-up NFC West. Jaxon Smith-Njigba had seven catches for a career-best 180 yards and two scores.

VIKINGS 21, COLTS 13

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Sam Darnold overcame four sacks and three turnovers by throwing three second-half touchdown passes, and Minnesota defense made Indianapolis quarterback Joe Flacco's return to the starting role a rough one as the Vikings beat the Colts.

Justin Jefferson had 137 receiving yards, Jordan Addison made a one-handed diving grab in the back corner of the end zone to get Minnesota on the board after a sloppy and scoreless first half, and Jalen Nailor had the tiebreaking touchdown reception to help the Vikings (6-2) stop a two-game skid.

Kenny Moore II had a 38-yard fumble return in the second quarter, the only touchdown for the Colts (4-5) in their first game all season that wasn't decided by six points or fewer.

6 Pistons score in double figures to lead Detroit past Nets

NEW YORK (AP) — Cade Cunningham scored 19 points to lead the Detroit Pistons to a 106-92 win over the Brooklyn Nets Sunday.

Cunningham was one of six players in double figures for Detroit. Tobias Harris and Malik Beasley scored 18 points each, Jaden Ivey finished with 15, Tim Hardaway Jr. added 14 and Jalen Duren had 13 for the Pistons.

Duren also grabbed 17 rebounds, and Detroit has won two of its last three games.

Despite a 26-point performance from Cameron Johnson, the Nets fell to 3-4. Cam Thomas, Brooklyn's leading scorer, scored 17 points and only had six in the fourth quarter after entering the game as the NBA's leader in fourth-quarter scoring.

Leading by six points entering the fourth quarter, the Pistons held the Nets to 15 points in the fourth to earn their second win of the season.

Shooting the basketball was an issue for the Pistons on Sunday as Detroit went 11 for 36 behind the arc.

The Nets had a similar problem and shot 9 for 31 from 3.

Following a relatively strong first half, the Nets were outscored 31-20 and outrebounded 12-7 in the third quarter.

Johnson's 22 first-half points were the most by a Nets player in the first half this season. Johnson entered the game third on Brooklyn in scoring.

AP

Brooklyn Nets' Cam Johnson, front right, passes the ball away from Detroit Pistons' Cade Cunningham, left, during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Nov. 3, 2024, in New York.

HAWKS 126, PELICANS 111

NEW ORLEANS (AP)— Jalen Johnson scored 29 points and Atlanta snapped a four-game skid with a victory over short-handed New Orleans.

Pelicans star forward Zion Williamson was scratched from the lineup with right hamstring tightness shortly before the game, leaving Brandon Ingram as the club's only usual starter in uniform.

Ingram scored 32, but it wasn't enough to overcome a Hawks squad with six players with at least 11 points.

Trae Young scored 23, while former Pelican Dyson Daniels, back from a two-game injury absence, added 16 for Atlanta. Larry Nance Jr. scored 14 against his former team.

MAVERICKS 108, MAGIC 85

DALLAS (AP)—Luka Doncic had 32 points and nine rebounds and seven assists, Daniel Gafford scored a season-high 18 points, and Dallas beat Orlando.

The defending Western Conference champions outscored the Magic 30-9 in the first 9:30 of the second quarter en route to a 65-40 halftime lead. Dallas' largest lead was 33 points.

Orlando played its second game without Paolo Banchero, the No. 1 overall pick in the 2022 draft and 2023 Rookie of the Year, who suffered a torn right oblique last Wednesday.

Another Magic starter, Wendell Carter Jr., was limited to nine first-half minutes, six points and a rebound because of a strain of his left plantar fascia.

Franz Wagner led the Magic with 13 points, and Orlando scored well below its average of 111.7 points per game.

Carter acknowledges contentious exit from Toronto as Raptors retire former star's jersey

TORONTO (AP)—An emotional Vince Carter acknowledged his contentious exit from Toronto as his No. 15 jersey became the first number retired by the Raptors in a halftime ceremony during Saturday's game against Sacramento.

"It's not just Carter 15 going up, it's all of us going up," Carter told fans before a banner with his name and number was lifted to the rafters. "The memories, however you view it, goes up tonight. I hope and pray we enjoy our jersey being retired forever together."

Carter walked to center court to begin the ceremony and gestured with his hands to request cheers from the crowd, and then balled his fists and roared "Come on!" before saluting the response.

Former Toronto teammates Tracy McGrady, Antonio Davis, Kevin Willis, Charles Oakley, Morris Peterson, Dee Brown, Jerome Williams, Alvin Williams and Muggsy Bogues joined Carter, his family and Raptors president Masai Ujiri on the court for the ceremony.

"He taught us how to fly," Ujiri said in introducing Carter to the cheering crowd.

Carter had to pause several times to control his emotions or dab at tears during a pregame press conference. At one point, speaking about his family, a tearful Carter beckoned his young son Vincent Jr. to join him at the podium for an embrace.

The only player in NBA history to play in four decades, Carter spent the first six-plus of his record 22 seasons with the Raptors. He was the 1999 Rookie of the Year in his first season and an All-Star and the Slam Dunk champion in his second, when Toronto made the playoffs for the first time.

Swept out of the first round by the Knicks in his first postseason, Carter and the Raptors returned to the playoffs the following spring and upset New York by winning Game 5 at Madison Square Garden.

Before Saturday's game, Carter recalled that series victory as one of the best memories of his time in Toronto.

"Going through what (former Knicks coach) Mr. Jeff Van Gundy put me through with his defense, I was excited to have that opportunity to go against that defense again," Carter said.

Carter is credited for impacting basketball across Canada, influencing a generation of future NBA players such as Tristan Thompson, former Raptors guard Cory Joseph and current Raptors forward Kelly Olynyk.

AP

Former Toronto Raptors player Vince Carter reacts during his number retirement ceremony at halftime of an NBA basketball game between the Toronto Raptors and the Sacramento Kings in Toronto on Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024.

"The legacy is still growing," Carter said. "This is the icing on the cake."

Thompson was one of several players, including Stephen Curry and former Raptors Kyle Lowry and DeMar DeRozan, to record a congratulatory message for Carter in a video that played before the on-court ceremony.

"I wouldn't be here without you," Thompson said.

Early on in his Toronto tenure, Carter earned the nickname "Air Canada" for his high-flying dunks. As injuries mounted and his production declined, Carter faced criticism from fans for becoming less aggressive when he settled for jumpers rather than driving and drawing contact.

In December 2004, Carter was traded to the Nets for Alonzo Mourning, Eric Williams, Aaron Williams and a pair of first-round draft picks. Mourning never played for Toronto.

For years, there was anger and animosity from Raptors fans toward Carter after he pushed to be traded out of Toronto.

A decade on from that deal, the relationship-mending began when Carter visited Toronto with the Memphis Grizzlies on Nov. 19, 2014. The Raptors, who were celebrating their 20th anniversary that season, honored Carter with a tribute video during a first-quarter timeout.

Speaking in the halftime ceremony, Carter called it "a day I'll never forget."

Although a few fans booed as the montage began that night, most of the sellout crowd of 19,800 soon stood and cheered. An emotional Carter raised his arms, tapped his heart and wiped tears from his eyes.

During his pregame press conference Carter was overcome with emotion again as he recalled watching that video almost a decade ago.

"It's something about seeing those highlights in this building, because that's where it was created," he said.

Carter retired in 2020 at age 43. Last month, he was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

Earlier Saturday, a mural of Carter was unveiled in downtown Toronto. In September, the Raptors unveiled a revitalized Vince Carter Court at a Toronto park.

LA Dodgers spent big in free agency before winning big

PHOENIX (AP)— The Los Angeles Dodgers spent big last offseason before winning big this postseason, taking home a World Series title after committing more than $1 billion on players like Shohei Ohtani, Yoshinobu Yamamoto and Teoscar Hernández.

Now it's time to see which teams are in the mood to open their wallets for free agents in preparation for the 2025 season.

The Ohtani sweepstakes dominated last year's offseason conversations until the Japanese superstar inked an eye-popping $700 million, 10-year deal last December. With apologies to Juan Soto, there might not be anyone that commands that kind of salary in the coming months, even if this year's class is arguably deeper.

» The 2025 class might be even deeper

Soto, Willy Adames, Corbin Burnes, Max Fried, Blake Snell, Alex Bregman and Jack Flaherty are among the high-level players who are looking for new teams. After that, there's another enticing tier of players like the previously mentioned Hernández, Anthony Santander, Jurickson Profar, Ha-Seong Kim, Pete Alonso, Christian Walker and Sean Manaea who could provide a big lift for championship-contending teams.

MLB's general managers will meet this week in San Antonio, Texas, in the unofficial opener to the offseason. There usually aren't a lot of moves during these early November conversations, but the groundwork is often laid for future deals.

AP

Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Walker Buehler throws against the New York Yankees during the second inning in Game 3 of the baseball World Series, Monday, Oct. 28, 2024, in New York.

Here are some things to watch as MLB free agency opens this week:

Soto shined as a Yankee, but don't expect a NY discount

This class may be deep, but there's no doubt the No. 1 prize is Soto. The four-time All-Star already has 201 career homers, a career .421 on-base percentage and helped lead the New York Yankees to the World Series before losing in five games to the Dodgers.

He's also just 26 years old.

The Yankees would love to keep Soto, who teamed with Aaron Judge to become a formidable pair for the Bronx Bombers. But it's unclear how much owner Hal Steinbrenner is willing to spend on a player who could command a contract in the range of $500 million.

Soto didn't tip his hand after New York's disappointing exit in the Fall Classic, but it doesn't sound like he's willing to sign for a discount.

"I'm going to be available for all 30 teams," Soto said. "I don't want to say anybody has any advantage because at the end of the day, we're going to look at what they have and how much they want me."

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

YOUNG

From page 16

forward to playing against them in Guam for NPRC 2025. Thank you TanHoldings for hosting me in such a fun Tennis Classic!"

As for the boys 12 doubles division, Jason Choi and Seung Woo Lee outplayed Dong Min Jang and Seung Min Jang in three tough sets, 3-6, 6-0, 11-9.

In the girls 14 division, No. 2 seed Amy Eun Ho Park beat No. 1 seed Vivian Chung, 4-6, 6-4, 10-3.

Park took down Jenna Pascual in the semis, 6-1, 6-3. Pascual settled for third place after she beat Chlorie Lee, 8-7(5).

In the girls 10 division, No. 1 seed Fiona Yu took it all the way home after her finals win against No. 2 Aileen Yujung Kim, 6-2.

As Yu had the bye, she went straight to the semis and won, 6-4, over Lynore He.

Third place was Eva Shin who defeated He, 6-4.

In the boys 12 division, No. 1 seed Seung Woo Lee smacked his way past Seung Min Jang, 6-4, 6-1.

Before that, Lee blanked Jason Choi, 6-0, 6-0, and edged Dong Min Jang, 6-0, 6-3.

Evan Zhang settled for third place after he slipped past Jason Choi in three tough sets, 6-4, 4-6, 10-8.

Jeff Race, the tourney's referee and CNMI tennis head coach, said of the event last Sunday, "We've had a little rain but we got through the matches. Lydia [Tan] had done a great job of running the tournament. There've been a lot of really good matches; a lot of the kids haven't played in a tournament for a few months so they kind of just have to get back into it, but we're all having fun."

Week 2 of the tournament will feature adult divisions next Friday, Nov. 8, to Sunday, Nov. 10.

Race added that some of the youth netters are competing in the adult division. "Every year, we encourage them to play. They do very well."

Sponsors of the event are ASC Trust, Mobil, D&Q Distributors, Quality Distributors, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, National Park Service, AMS, iShop, Century Insurance, CTSI Logistics, TakeCare, and TBC.

The TanHoldings Tennis Classic 2024 had a year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic and made a return in 2021.

SANG-HUN

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performances. Notably, Tony Satur was closest to the pin on the 4th hole, setting up a birdie opportunity at just 5 feet 5 inches. Seung-Ki Shon landed within 2 feet 3 inches of the pin on the 6th hole, creating a prime birdie chance.

Marianas Variety president Amier Younis achieved closest-to-the-pin honors on the 11th hole, positioning his ball at 10 feet 1 inch. The tournament also celebrated power on the long drives, with Marco Peter reaching 308 yards on the 14th hole and Jung-Eun Park hitting 250 yards on the ladies' 14th. Precision play was showcased by Calvin Yamagishi, who finished 2 feet 10 inches from the pin on the 15th, and Seung-ick Lee, who displayed exceptional accuracy on the 16th hole, landing within 55 centimeters of the pin.

Among the tournament's statistical leaders, Franco Santos led the field with four birdies, while Jong-gap Park's consistency shone through with 15 pars. Yun-Ho Na recorded the most bogeys at 15, Hyun-Seob Ko had the most lost balls at 11, and Bo-Guen Choi tallied the most double pars with 10.

Hyulim Group chair Jin Woo Kim underscored the significance of this event within the company's broader mission and community involvement. He stated, "First and foremost, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone attending despite your busy schedules. Our Hyulim Group proudly includes 20 subsidiaries, spanning from leading robotics companies like Hyulim Robot to top-tier fire protection equipment firms such as Paratech, along with advanced industries in construction, asset management, and more."

He continued, "In pursuit of greater growth and unity among our subsidiaries, we have been hosting an annual golf tournament last year, inviting executives and esteemed VIPs from our subsidiaries. LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, our 17th subsidiary and first overseas asset, celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. To express our gratitude to the local VIPs of Saipan who have been instrumental in sustaining LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort's business for three decades, we are hosting this joint Golf Tournament. We are committed to ensuring that LaoLao Bay Golf Resort will be loved for the next 30 years, just as it had been for the past 30 years. We will strive to improve our facilities and maintain customer-focused services to continue receiving your support. Thank you once again for attending."

As a reflection of Hyulim Group's diverse portfolio, Kim also listed key subsidiaries, including Hyulim Robot, Paratech, Hyulim A-Tech, Hyulim Networks, Edge Foundry, Hyulim Wellness, G&M, Korea Comprehensive Development, Alpen Route Investment Management, Hyulim Construction, Deeper-I, Hyulim AMC, JK Withus, Saipan LaoLao Development, and EQ Cell.

The 2024 Hyulim-Lao Golf Tournament, enriched by the camaraderie of its participants and the strategic excitement of the double Peoria format, demonstrated Hyulim Group's commitment to community engagement and underscored LaoLao Bay Golf Resort's legacy as a cherished venue on Saipan.

BATALLONES

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In the closest to the pin, Jung Eun Teack ruled hole No. 4. Ditto for Frances Sablan and Manibusan for holes No. 7 and 13, respectively. In the longest drive, Rick Kautz won hole No. 2, while Tony Deleon Guerrero followed in hole No. 18.

With the win, September champion Batallones and August champion Cepeda now join 2024 Ace of the Month winners Larry Deleon Guerrero (January), Alex Tudela (February), Nick Sablan (March), Das Krishnan (April), Joe I. Sablan (May), Freddie Cataluna (June), and Jung Eun Teack (July). ***(Saipan Tribune)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	6	1	.857	–
New York	3	2	.600	2
Brooklyn	3	4	.429	3
Toronto	2	5	.286	4
Philadelphia	1	4	.200	4
Southeast Division				
Miami	3	2	.600	–
Orlando	3	4	.429	1
Atlanta	3	4	.429	1
Washington	2	3	.400	1
Charlotte	2	4	.333	1½
Central Division				
Cleveland	7	0	1.000	–
Chicago	3	3	.500	3½
Indiana	2	4	.333	4½
Detroit	2	5	.286	5
Milwaukee	1	5	.167	5½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
Dallas	4	2	.667	–
Memphis	4	3	.571	½
Houston	3	3	.500	1
San Antonio	3	3	.500	1
New Orleans	3	4	.429	1½
Northwest Division				
Oklahoma City	6	0	1.000	–
Minnesota	3	3	.500	3
Denver	3	3	.500	3
Portland	2	5	.286	4½
Utah	0	6	.000	6
Pacific Division				
Phoenix	5	1	.833	–
Golden State	5	1	.833	–
L.A. Lakers	4	2	.667	1
Sacramento	3	3	.500	2
L.A. Clippers	2	4	.333	3

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	7	2	0	.778	260	173
N.Y. Jets	3	6	0	.333	171	183
Miami	2	6	0	.250	124	187
New England	2	7	0	.222	141	217
South						
Houston	6	3	0	.667	201	200
Indianapolis	4	5	0	.444	188	193
Tennessee	2	6	0	.250	140	213
Jacksonville	2	7	0	.222	195	252
North						
Pittsburgh	6	2	0	.750	187	119
Baltimore	6	3	0	.667	283	219
Cincinnati	4	5	0	.444	236	227
Cleveland	2	7	0	.222	148	213
West						
Kansas City	7	0	0	1.000	173	123
L.A. Chargers	5	3	0	.625	159	101
Denver	5	4	0	.556	183	161
Las Vegas	2	7	0	.222	168	251
NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East						
Washington	7	2	0	.778	263	189
Philadelphia	6	2	0	.750	199	155
Dallas	3	5	0	.375	171	225
N.Y. Giants	2	7	0	.222	139	202
South						
Atlanta	6	3	0	.667	221	216
Tampa Bay	4	4	0	.500	235	213
Carolina	2	7	0	.222	147	293
New Orleans	2	7	0	.222	207	229
North						
Detroit	7	1	0	.875	258	148
Minnesota	6	2	0	.750	209	150
Green Bay	6	3	0	.667	230	194
Chicago	4	4	0	.500	172	148
West						
Arizona	5	4	0	.556	207	214
L.A. Rams	4	4	0	.500	170	194
San Francisco	4	4	0	.500	210	182
Seattle	4	5	0	.444	210	221

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Jackson ends with perfect passer rating, Ravens dismantle Broncos

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Sports

LA Dodgers spent big in free agency before winning big

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Young netters shine in THTC

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Young netters showed off their skills in the youth division on Week 1 of the TanHoldings Tennis Classic 2024 last weekend from last Friday to Sunday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan and the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

LEIGH GASES
Boys 14 singles first place NMI's Matthew Hwang goes for a return during his finals against Guam's Eddie Calvo in the TanHoldings Tennis Classic 2024 last Sunday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

LEIGH GASES
Boys 14 singles runner-up Guam's Eddie Calvo smacks a forehand during his finals in the TanHoldings Tennis Classic 2024 last Sunday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED
First place in the boys 14 singles NMI's Matthew Hwang, center, poses with his award along with second place Guam's Eddie Calvo, right, and tournament director Lydia Tan last Sunday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

There were only two doubles divisions and in the boys 14 age group, Guam's lone contender, Eddie Calvo, paired up with the CNMI's Matthew Hwang and bagged gold after their finals win over Cody Jin Ho Park and Ki Joon Park last Sunday.

Calvo and Hwang merged their skills together and almost blanked both Parks, 6-0, 6-1.

In the morning, Calvo competed in the boys 14 finals against singles No. 1 seed Hwang. In that battle, both netters put it all out on the court and went into three tough sets.

As the sky gave way to some sprinkle of rain toward the end of their match, Hwang had the upper hand and won in extra points, 3-6, 6-4, 10-6.

In the semis, Hwang faced off against No. 4 Minjoon Michael Jeon and won, 7-5, 6-2.

As Hwang had the bye, he went straight to quarterfinals, he went up against Jun Lee and beat him, 6-0, 6-3.

Twelve-year-old Calvo said after his doubles division gold medal win, "It was great to see players from this year's [North Pacific Regional Championships] and play against new ones too. I feel I played consistently in each match, and pushed my mental game to new limits. Matt is a strong competitor and an even better doubles mate."

The Saipan team has improved since I [challenged] them in April and I look

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Sang-hun Lee tops 2024 Hyu-Lim Lao Golf Tourney

By JERCY DIANA MAXIMO
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CORRESPONDENT

Sang-hun Lee topped the 2024 Hyulim-Lao Golf Tournament held at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort east course last Saturday.

Lee took the double Peoria tourney's championship following a net score of 71.2. His steady performance, reflected in a gross score of 106 and a significant handicap of 34.8, allowed him to benefit from the format, securing him the championships.

Lee's consistency proved to be a critical factor in leveraging the double Peoria system, which created a level playing field.

Tony Benavente, although unable to attend the awards ceremony, clinched second place with a net score of 71.6. Benavente's reliable approach to the game was reflected in his gross score of 80, along with an 8.4 handicap, keeping him near the top of the leaderboard. Anthony Tomokane rounded out the Top 3 with a net score of 72.2, powered by his gross score of 95 and a handicap of 22.8.

JERCY DIANA MAXIMO
Sang-hun Lee holds his double Peoria championship trophy as he poses for a photo with Hyulim Group chair Jin-woo Kim during the awards banquet of the 2024 Hyu-Lim Golf Tournament at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort last Saturday.

JERCY DIANA MAXIMO
Anthony Tomokane, on behalf of Tony Benavente, receives Benavente's double Peoria second place award during the awards banquet of the 2024 Hyu-Lim Golf Tournament at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort last Saturday.

JERCY DIANA MAXIMO
Anthony Tomokane holds his third place double Peoria award as he poses for a photo during the awards banquet of the 2024 Hyu-Lim Golf Tournament at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort last Saturday.

Tomokane emphasized the joy of the game, noting, "Just go out and have fun under the sun," and highlighted the pleasure of playing with various participants: "Playing with different players, as I enjoyed the day with every one of them." Reflecting on his approach to overcoming obstacles, he added, "Topping the ball, addressing it, fixing it, and just taking it one strike at a time."

Kwanghee Choi's impressive performance in the low gross category was also notable, finishing with a 2-under-par 70 and securing three birdies. Choi narrowly missed a hole-in-one on the 6th hole and concluded his round with 14 pars and a single bogey on the 13th. In the ladies' flight, Mi-Kyeong Ko took the top spot with a gross score of 91, achieving two pars on both the front and back nine.

The awards banquet that evening at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort honored these top finishers and recognized several other outstanding

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Batallones, Cepeda are Aug., Sept. champions

Batallones

Cepeda

Rene Batallones and Patrick Cepeda won the latest two monthly tournaments of the Saipan Golfers Association.

Batallones topped the SGA 2024 September Ace of the Month Tournament last Sept. 29 at the LaoLao Bay Golf & resort's east course by virtue of his net 74. The 14-handicapper fired a gross score of 88 following a 46-42 in the front and back nine.

Das Krishnan and Alex Tudela fared better with net scores of 71 (39-43, 82) and 73 (42-43, 85), but were ineligible for they've already won earlier in the year.

In the closest to the pin competition, Joe I. Sablan ruled hole No. 4, while Tony Reyes was without peer in hole No. 6. Jung Eun Teack then took the cake in hole No. 15.

Teack and Freddie Cataluna then brought the lumber in holes No. 3 and 18 to win the longest drive.

Meanwhile, Cepeda outright won the SGA 2024 August Ace of the Month Tournament after firing a net 73 last Aug. 25 at the LaoLao Bay Golf & resort's west course.

The 18-handicapper carded a 45 and 46 in the first nine and last nine holes for a gross of 91. Larry Guerrero finished second with his net 74 (45-45, gross 90), while Ed Manibusan completed the Top 3 with his net 75 built around a gross of 84 (41-43).

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